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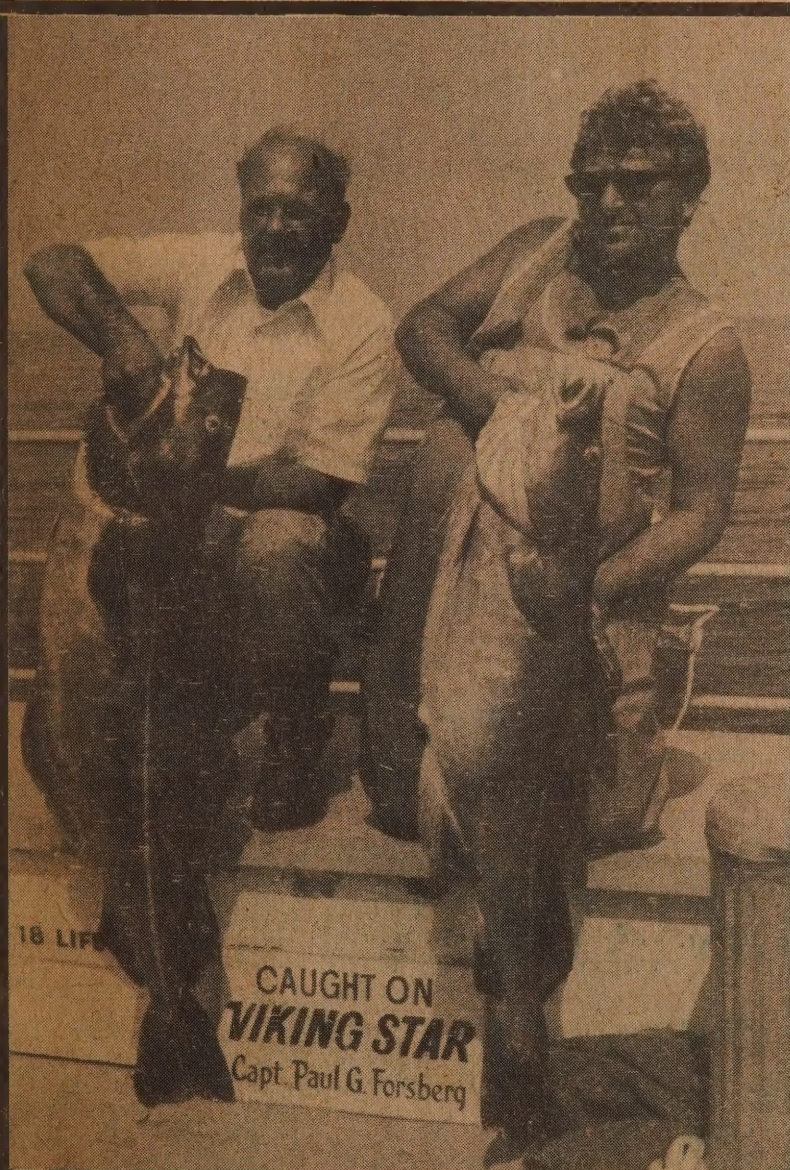
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June 12th, 1975, ISSUE No. 22



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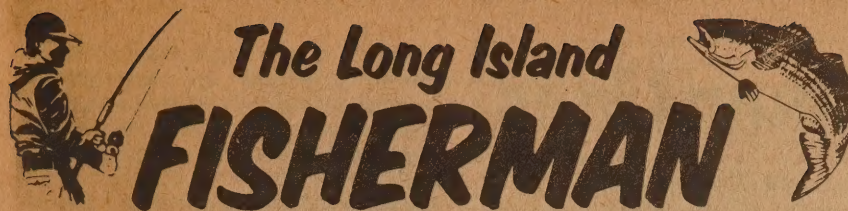
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THE ONLY WEEKLY GUIDE FOR FISHERMEN IN THE N.Y. AREA

Volume 10, No. 22

June 12th, 1975

CONTENTS

STRIPERS ON A FLY	Rod Walinchus	6	
Freshwater:			
TROUT PARADISE	Angelo Peluso	8	
The BOTTOM Line:			
ADVANCED FLUKING	Scott Simons	9	
SurfSide:			
BUCKTAILS	Doc Muller	10	
Diving:			
NEW YORK BIGHT	John Fennimore	12	
NANTUCKET WRECK FISHING	Al Ristori	14	
Fisherman With A Camera	Michael C. Porter	16	
The Largemouth & Light	Ron Miller	18	
Tourist At Midway	Dr. W. A. Muller	20	
BATTLING BLUEFISH	Fred Guardineer	22	
DEPARTMENTS:			
Chum Lines	4	Litter Box Contest	11
Tournaments	4	Fillet Knife Offer	23
Boating	5	Classified Ads	44
Club News	5	Garcia Line Offer	46
L.I.F. Contest Winner	10	Tide Tables	47
		Solunar Tables	48

ABOUT THE COVER: Nantucket Wreck Fishing—pool winners on the Viking Star's Nantucket Wreck Trip last September included this 43¾ lb. pollock, left, that is a new IGFA All-Tackle World's Record. See Al Ristori's article on page 14.

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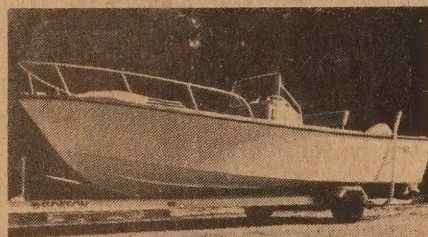
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STATEMENT ON 200 MILE LIMIT

Enclosed is a letter from Congressman Richard Ottinger, addressed to me as to his statement before the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries.

I would like, if possible for you to print his statement in *The Long Island Fisherman* so that all sport fishermen will know that they have a friend on their side. Al Accia, Yonkers.

**STATEMENT OF REP. RICHARD
L. OTTINGER**

*Before the Subcommittee on
Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation
and the Environment Committee
on Merchant Marine and Fisheries
March 13, 1975*

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, it gives me great pleasure to come before you today and to speak in favor of legislation of which I am a co-sponsor with my distinguished colleague from Massachusetts, Mr. Studds.

I do not think I need belabor the point of why this legislation is necessary at this time. One could spend a good deal of time discussing the manner in which other nations have proceeded to claim for themselves a 200-mile jurisdiction off their own coasts. And one could go into great detail about the effect on American fishermen of seeing their fishing stocks diminished close into our own shores by foreign vessels. I am sure Mr. Studds has provided you with substantial evidence of both points.

I might add, though, that many people think the proximity of foreign vessels to American shores in a phenomenon primarily seen in New England or off the West Coast. That is not true. A member of my staff recently had a report from a commercial fisherman who works out of Sheepshead Bay in New York City, who said that one day in December of last year he and his co-workers saw more than 100 foreign fishing vessels only about 13 miles offshore. These men are angry, and I understand their wrath. So far, they have been extremely restrained in their behavior, but I am afraid that if we don't act in this session extremely serious international incidents.

Some people have suggested that we not act to claim a 200-mile limit, but recommend instead that we seek to protect our marine resources by negotiating a superb treaty at the Law of the Sea Conference.

While I, myself, have always been a staunch advocate of international cooperation, I do not believe we are in a position at this time to negotiate an adequate treaty for the job that needs doing.

First of all, the whale treaty shows clearly that those nations with the most substantial interest in the making of a resource simply will not sign a treaty.

Furthermore, while I might tend to favor a treaty which was truly international and which protected all marine resources virtually up to the high tide line, we simply are not going to get that kind of cooperation at this time.

As a matter of fact, it is my conviction that we will be in a greater position of strength to negotiate the best possible treaty in the real world of our if we first move ahead to claim the 200-mile limit. If the other parties to the Law of the Sea Conference come around to negotiating a stronger treaty than I think most people now anticipate, then we can consider again diminishing our claim for territorial waters.

I am very appreciative of the leadership that Mr. Studds has provided on this important issue, and I reiterate my strong support of the bill under consideration before this committee today. Thank you.

PRAISE FOR PARTY BOAT CAPTAIN

In the past you have printed several letters in your fine magazine on party boats, both pro and con. As I am a fairly new member of the party boat clan, I can only say if you find a good thing, stick with it!

I believe in giving praise and thanks when it is justly earned, and I believe Capt. Clark Jr. has earned it.

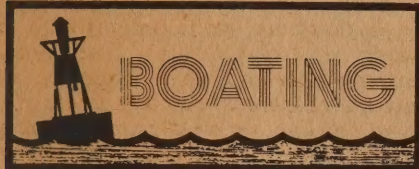
On a past trip, a windy and cold Monday, we fished every inch of Peconic Bay with very few flounder aboard for the twenty or so fares.

At about 11:30 a.m. Capt. Clark blew the whistle to take up lines and proceeded toward Shinnecock Bay, a trip that took a little over an hour. When we arrived we took a few more fish, but it was fruitless; a stiff northwest wind and falling temperature kept the flounders inactive.

My point is, we moved many times and traveled some distances to catch fish, and the captain tried everything in his power to get us fish. This kind of dedication and willingness to give the customer his money's worth is a rarity in today's world. My many thanks to Capt. Clark Bellows, Jr. and his mate Pete for a fine day. And with the good Lord willing, many more to come. Walter J. Joseph, Central Islip,

N.Y.

Although we receive numerous complaints from disgruntled fares, we have always believed the majority of party boat captains to be honest; and we know they frequently work very hard to locate the fish. It's a pleasure to print an occasional letter of praise. G.V.



NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK SPECIAL EVENTS

Boating groups throughout Long Island will team up June 29 through July 5 to mark observance of National Safe Boating Week, according to Mr. Borden, chairman of the Safe Boating committee of Division XII U.S.C.G. Auxiliary.

The theme of this year's observance proclaimed by the president is "Safe Boating Is No Accident." He outlined this program for 28 June 1975 at Tappan Beach, Glenwood Landing, L.I. from 2 to 4 P.M.

A. A mock search and rescue demonstration.

B. Free boat courtesy examination by members of Division XII U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will be given. The examiners will check each boat brought in to make sure it is seaworthy and properly equipped.

C. Free one-lesson courses in the fundamentals of small boat handling will be given by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Division XII. "Dry-Land" safe boating and life-saving demonstrations will also be held.

D. Booths will be manned by the above mentioned organizations for public information and demonstration.

CLUB NEWS

HUNGERLEIDER FISHING CLUB

At the last regular meeting of the Hungerleider Fishing Club the following members were elected to office: President: Joseph Rienecker, Financial Secretary: Herb Poll, Recording Secretary: Gerry Yaghmourian, Club Representative: John Dojahn.

The following awards were presented by President Joseph Rienecker: Schaefer Salt Water Fishing Contest - Blues From Boat, a New York State 2nd Place Trophy Woman's Division to Mrs. Bonnie Rienecker, Queens County Sportsman's Federation Bluefish & Bass Tournament - Bluefish First Prize - John Dojahn received

plaque plus Savings Bond. Club Striped Bass sterling silver drinking mug - Fred Kapsch. High hook awards: 1st place, John Dojahn; 2nd place, Al Miller.

Mrs. Fred Kapsch and Mr. Ernest Cordova and his four sons were admitted as new members.

A minute of silence was held for the passing of Joseph Stoeffle. Joe was a regular on the Peconic Queen II Andrea Doria trips.

"SALTY" FLYRODDERS TO HOLD SEMINAR

The "Salty" Flyrodders of New York, Inc. will hold a one day Seminar on the 12th floor of ABERCROMBIE & FITCH, 45th Street and Madison Avenue, New York City on Tuesday, June 17th from noon to 2:00 P.M.

LOU TABORY from Scientific Anglers, will give free casting instructions on the roof top pool.

KEN BAY and BILL BRADSHAW will demonstrate and teach fly tying.

HAMMOND FOX will give instructions on the preparation of leaders and tippets.

LOU ROSSI will discuss tackle and fishing techniques.

This is a great opportunity for those in the area to get involved in salt water flyrodding. All are invited to attend.

CONTESTS & TOURNAMENTS

TOURNAMENTS

1975 RHODE ISLAND FISHING TOURNAMENT

June - October: Monthly Striped Bass Tournament sponsored by Radio Station WADK; fish must be verified at J.T. O'Connell Store, 364 Thames St., Newport.

June 7-8: 13th Annual Waterbury Deep Sea Fishing Club Codfish Tournament, Galilee.

June 22-29: 1st Annual Rocky Point Striped Bass Tournament; Boat and Shore Divisions 6 a.m. - 9 a.m., weighing-in, Rocky Point Park, Warwick.

July 1 - October 12: Jamestown Fishing Derby.

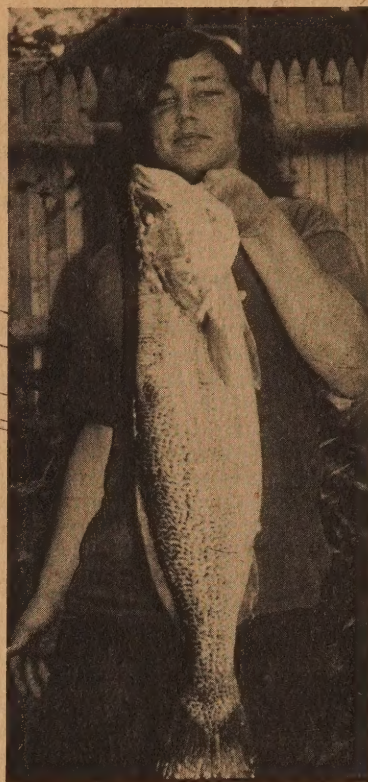
July 5-6: 5th Annual Roger Williams Striped Bass & Bluefish Tournament; Sat., 12:01 a.m. - Sun., 3 p.m.; Town Dock, Wickford.

July 15 - August 29: Rhode Island Tuna Tournament Rodeo, Galilee.

July 28-30: 6th Annual Block Island Billfish Invitational Tournament; Block Island Marina, Block Island.

August 8-11: 9th Annual Hi-Neighbor Point Judith Striped Bass & Bluefish Tournament, Galilee.

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Doug Roberts caught this 10 lb. 6 oz. Weakfish (Grey Trout) casting a 1/2 oz. 3/0B Hammertail near Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel. Hammertails are bucktail jigs featuring Hopkins® famous fish attracting hammered reflective surface. Their chrome plated lead heads are molded on Stainless Steel Hooks which won't rust and discolor the bucktail (or other items in your tackle box either). The 3/0 used by Doug is an exceptional casting lure for its weight, as it is very compact with minimal surface area. Hammertails are available in five sizes and three hair colors.

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Stripers on a Fly

by Rod Walinchus

Incredible! I stood knee-deep in a Long Island Sound channel and false-casted a large streamer. Of course I felt rather embarrassed. Boats slowed in passing to see the fool trout-fisherman; regulars on the beach glanced sideways, as if to say, "It takes all kinds."

Reacting to the half-sneers, I was fishing only half-heartedly. But then I thought, "Why not?" Very few bass had been taken from this particular area in the last few weeks. It had been a very slow spring. Why not? There was certainly nothing to lose.

It did not take an expert to see that the channel was alive with bait. Terns dove into the water in droves. The tide was about two hours out and moving, and the sun was setting over the horizon. I knew that there just had to be stripers around. (This area is primarily noted for its abundance of schoolies. I have never seen a bass larger than sixteen pounds taken.)

All around me casters threw Rebels, poppers, tins, small plastic eels, and bucktails. Boats were trolling, jigging, and drifting worms—all to no avail. The fish were being stubborn; they just would not hit a thing. Maybe they

had left for parts unknown.

I stood casting my streamer and daydreaming of better times—more fish...any fish...action. Then WHAM! My rod bent sharply. Completely surprised, I only instinctively raised my rod tip and set the hook. The loose coils of fly line zipped through the rod guides and the lightly set drag on my fly reel began singing.

The fish moved out into the main flow of water. The surge of the fish and the added force of the water took me into the dacron backing on my reel. There was a very tense second when the knot that joined the backing to the line bumped its way through the guides. After some give and take, a striper of about five pounds rolled over on its side and quietly gave up.

In a state of mild shock the boatmen and surfcasters all stared at my fish. Lucky shot! A fluke! Must be some sort of suicidal fish! I ignored the disbelief that seemed to be all around me and, before the evening was over, two more bass of the same size fell victim to my fly rod.

All this happened when no one else even had a strike! Luck? Maybe, but I don't think so. Something was defin-

itely right. On the trout stream the old adage of "match the hatch" could explain the success, but the Sound is a far cry from any trout stream, and certainly striped bass do not feed on flies or any of their developmental stages. What was it, then?

Looking around, I saw that the waters were literally alive with bait. On close inspection I could see that the prevalent bait was small sand eels, sand lance. This is a very difficult bait to duplicate in an artificial. Many come close—small plastic eels, whiptails, etc.—but they're not quite right.

Closer observation of my streamer revealed that I did in fact "match the hatch." My streamer closely resembled a sand eel in size and in action. The streamer was four inches long, and, because of the materials it was made of, literally breathed when worked through the water. As the line was stripped in, the streamer darted, undulated, and when it stopped (actually hesitated) the material pulsed in a breath-like action. Apparently this was very tantalizing to the fish.

The streamer was tied on a 1/0 stainless steel hook. It had an orange chenille body wrapped with tinsel, and tied in at the tail section was white ostrich (large streamer hackles can be substituted). At the head section some white bucktail with a few black bucktail hairs were tied in. The head itself was generously wrapped to give it a bulky look. For a dark day black ostrich and hackle could be substituted.

The feathers, ostrich, and even maribou when wetted provide the pulsating, undulating action. These materials seem better suited for that action than bucktail. Bucktail is stiff and hollow. It does not have the same kind of action and its hollowness makes its staying down in the water difficult.

Actually, my tackle consists of a fresh water bass outfit, an 8½ foot fly rod with a balanced reel, fitted with a WF8S quality fly line. While this may be suitable for experimentation, I would recommend a rod 8½ to 9 feet long, capable of handling a 9-weight line with a balanced reel. This provides more distance in the cast, especially when throwing a large, wind-resistant fly into a breeze, and is more than adequate in dealing with any outside fish one might encounter.

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The reel should be well-constructed; with a smooth drag. It should be large enough to hold the line plus plenty of dacron backing (18-27 lbs. test). One can never tell when it all might be needed. There are plenty of reels on the market and they range in price from under twenty dollars to almost two hundred dollars. It is always a good idea to get the very best one can afford; it pays off in the long run.

The fly line should be of the proper weight for the rod. Usually there is a marking on the rod giving the proper weight line to balance it. It would be extremely frustrating to try to cast a line that is either too heavy or too light for the rod. For most fishing I prefer a hi-density sinking line, especially when the current is fast. The taper should be a weight-forward, or salt water taper. (e.g. WF9S-weight forward, nine-weight, sinking) The shooting head is somewhat difficult to use and not entirely necessary for our purposes.

A spare spool for the reel, filled with a floating line, could be carried when trying to work a fly on the surface. It makes manipulating a fly rod popper an easy accomplishment. It would be wise to purchase the very best line available. Inexpensive lines are a poor investment because they do not cast or hold up as well as the good ones.

Unlike fresh water trout, these gamesters are not leader-shy. So, a leader from 6-9 feet, tapering down to as small a tippet size as one might venture, is adequate. A twelve pound test tippet is about average. I would also suggest a short shock tip. This helps reduce breakage from nicks and abrasions from rocks and other underwater obstructions. A wire trace may also be a good idea if the game sought has a healthy set of dentures (bluefish).

The hook that is not too cleverly hidden under all those feathers that must—MUST—be very sharp. The construction of a fly rod makes for a

very deadly weapon. The rod is limber enough to absorb shock and to pressure a bolting fish. That limberness prevents the angler from setting anything but a very sharp hook, especially in a hard-mouthed species. Therefore, the hook should be sharp enough to slip into the tissue of the mouth with minimum pressure.

The artificials used should resemble the prevalent baitfish. This practice has its limitations: Obviously, it would be self-defeating to try to duplicate a twelve inch mossbunker or a very large bass eel. But the fly can duplicate small bait fishes; eels, shrimp, or even crabs. Fly rod poppers that make noise or surface commotion are also very effective.

There are plenty of commercially tied artificials that do the job of imitation very adequately, but there is also a sense of accomplishment when a fish falls to one's own concoction of feathers and steel. Because of their size, these flies are fairly easy to construct and very satisfying.

Most Long Island inshore game fish that can be caught from the beach can also be taken with a fly. Striped bass are probably the premier species, but bluefish, weakfish, and mackerel will also fall to feathers.

The fly rod is a deadly instrument and highly effective in its place, but it has its limitations. Once these limitations are recognized, they can be dealt with. The fly rod is a relatively easy instrument to use. I say relatively easy. It certainly is not easier than flipping a lure out into the sea with a spinning rod. But then again, I would like to see a spinning rod cast a few feathers that have practically no weight.

The average angler can, in a short period of time, learn the basics, thus enabling him to place the fly a short distance from him—hopefully into paydirt country. Of course, with repeated practice more skills will be developed and the angler will become

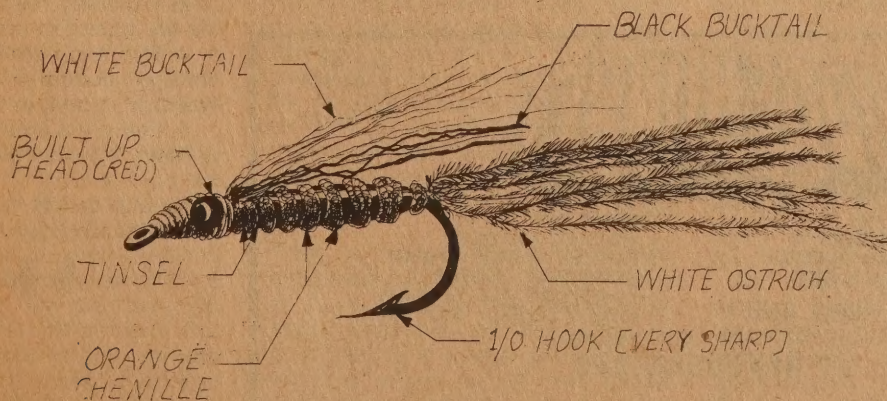
more sophisticated in his proficiency. Techniques like the "double-haul" will become second nature.

The fly rod has a limited range. It certainly will not outcast an eleven foot surf stick heaving a three ounce plug. Loose coils of line can at times be frustrating. Just as one is about to power into a cast at breaking fish it never fails that some stray coil catches on a rock, hangs up on some seaweed, or finds its way under the angler's firmly planted foot.

If wading, and using a sinking line, the coils that have been stripped off sink and make the long cast difficult. An easy solution to this problem is a shooting basket (a small basket-like device that ties to the waist and holds coils of line out of the water).

The angler has to choose his fishing spots rather selectively, because of the limitations of the rod. Obviously, the fly rod would be an ineffective weapon in a pounding surf and a stiff onshore breeze. The north shore of Long Island has many places where a surfcasting fly-rod can score, especially when the fish school and hit the beaches. Many of the inlets and channels are easily accessible and very long casts are not usually required. Porpoise Channel and Mt. Sinai Channel are just two such places. The Centre Island Reef, as one wades around it, harbors bass among the rocks that are accessible to fly-rodgers. There are many, many places—explore.

There are few things that can compare to the throbbing of a good fish at the other end of a fly rod. The strain of the rod, the sing of the drag, the splash of a gamefish, the pumping of adrenaline—isn't that what it's all about? Isn't that what every fisherman lives for? It doubles the excitement when that gamefish is tricked, conned, deceived, and maybe even coaxed by a handful of feathers that you devised. Fantastic!



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FRESHWATER FISHING

with Angelo Peluso

TROUT PARADISE

The Connetquot has a small stream charm and elegance all its own. Its stream flow is such that it combines the characteristics of many types of good trout water into one very beautiful package. The fly angler is faced with a variety of stream conditions: slow water, fast water, riffles, pools, eddies, backwaters, etc.

All of these conditions most certainly test the skills of the fisherman and, more importantly, afford an opportunity to learn.

Fishing within the confines of the Park is controlled by limiting the number of anglers allowed access at any given time. Fishing is also limited to any one of three established sessions: 7:00-11:00, 12:00-4:00 and 5:00-dark. It is necessary to call in advance to make a reservation for the desired session (during this time of year it would be wise to call at least a week in advance of your intended trip).

It was with a telephone call to the Long Island State Park Commission that I began this new fishing adventure. My session selection was for a Sunday, 7-11. I made this choice because I enjoy the solitude of early morning fishing (I guess that this is a rationalization, since the 12-4 prime-time session was booked solid).

That Sunday, after checking in at the attendant's booth, I proceeded to my destination, the site assigned to me.

Now to catch some trout. I proceeded to work the Mickey Finn by casting upstream and working the fly through its natural flow. This I did for about a

half-hour, at which time I decided to do a bit of wading. As a note of information be advised that the park personnel do not mind wading so long as it is done with care and discretion. The banks and streambed are rather fragile and overt carelessness can cause premature erosion. So if you are inclined to wade, please don't abuse the privilege.

Bearing this in mind, I cautiously stepped down from the platform and into the stream itself. My next decision was to remove the red and yellow streamer and replace it with a Muddler. Off I went, casting downstream. But this time the results were a bit different. After about a dozen or so casts, a trout made the mistake of confusing the fly for the real thing. A brief but pleasant fight followed, and ended with me placing my hand on its underside and gently removing the hook. It was a nice brookie, about ten inches in length, and it made a bee-line for the nearest cover as I released it. It's always nice to have that first fish of the day under your belt.

On went the casting and wading until I spotted a half-dozen trout lazily finning themselves in a sun-warmed location. The first few casts were met with responses indicating curiosity, a very positive sign. Several roll-casts later one of the brook trout was tempted to strike. This fish appeared to be the identical twin of the first fish, and he too headed for the hills upon receiving his freedom. I was hoping to induce another strike before the released fish could send back some distress signals to his relaxing com-

rades. Luck was with me, for yet another brookie was fooled. This one was a bit larger, about twelve inches, and put up a very respectable tussle. This guy was sent back home a bit wiser, hopefully to grow larger and do battle on another occasion.

I was searching out every possible holding place. I came upon three huddled fish, one of which appeared to have a good set of shoulders. Placing the Muddler in such a manner so as to have it drift by the nose of the "biggie," I was careful not to do anything to spook it. As the fly passed by the big brook I noticed one of the smaller fish make a dash for it. I didn't want this smaller trout messing things up so I instinctively jerked the fly out of its way. That motion turned out to be just what the larger fish was waiting for: It immediately ingested the Muddler. This fellow put on a good show and I was hoping that the 5X leader would hold up. It did, and I was a very happy angler as I placed the net under the 15½ inch speckled. A perfect dinner for two—as I had promised my wife.

So that's my tale. But before I leave and tell you to give the Connetquot a try for yourself, I would like to state a few of the Park regulations that have been enacted to insure the preservation of this valuable water resource.

1. Fish at your assigned site. You are allowed to fish other areas but you must be certain not to intrude on other angler's domain. Be polite and courteous and respect the rights of other fishermen.

2. Use only wet or dry flies.

3. Carefully release those trout you do not intend to creel.

4. The daily limit is three fish; two of eight inches or longer and one of fourteen inches or better.

5. Leave the area as it was when you arrived. Take out everything you bring in.

If you decide to fish this natural wonderland, good luck.



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THE BOTTOM LINE

with Scott Simons

ADVANCED FLUKING Part Three: Techniques

As with most fish, half the battle of fluking is won when a bottom formation is located that attracts the fluke's primary food source—baitfish. While fluke can be taken over a flat bottom, it will be a slow pick because they will be spread over a wide area. The object is to fish the bottom formations where fluke will congregate due to the large source of food.

The four basic bottom formations that attract quantities of fluke are shown in the diagrams. All have two features in common: baitfish are plentiful, and the shape and location of the formation creates a turbulence that renders them helpless, easy prey for the fluke. They are easily located with a flasher-type depth sounder and a watchful eye.

A *depression* is a shallow hole where the water has a uniform depth around it, such as open sandy bottom in the ocean and the flats of the bays where fluke often lie in small pods. Look for depressions of four or more feet and make one drift. If you don't get a strike, look for another hole; that one is empty.

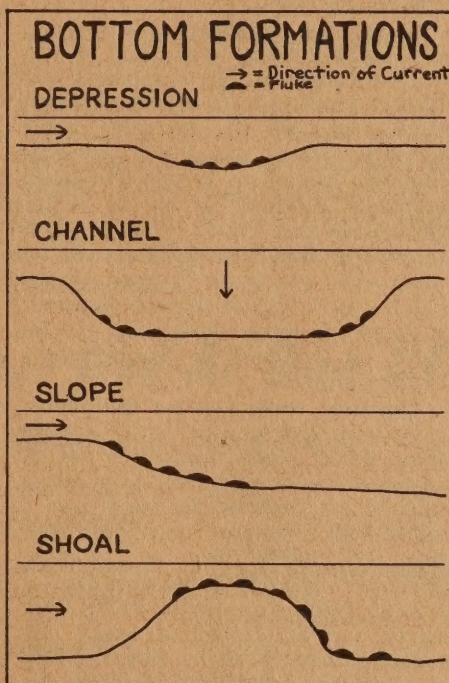
A *channel* is a deep trough or drain that water moves through as the bay is flushed by the tides. Fluke will lie along the edges of channels, but are rarely found in the middle. The State Channel running through the south shore bays, the Babylon Cut in Great South Bay, and the Old and New Cuts in Moriches Bay are all prime fluking areas.

A *slope* is simply a gradual slant of the bottom as the depth increases coming off the flats. The fluke will lie on the slope facing the shallow water, waiting for baitfish to be swept off the flats. Drift the length of the slope, or crosswise from shallow to deep water so the bait moves down the incline as the fluke would expect it to.

A *shoal* is a large mound (usually sand) rising from the bottom that has been built up by tidal and current movements. Fluke will be found on the top, up-current and down-current sides of the shoal, but as a rule are usually thickest on the down-current side. Shoals are often the cause of rips that are visible on the surface, so keep an eye open for white water. Rips may be caused by any sudden change in depth or two conflicting currents meeting. Personally, I find the many rips off Montauk to consistently

provide the best fluking on the Island, and I fish them exclusively June through August.

The most difficult technique to master in advanced fluking is when to set the hook. Every time I take a novice fluke fisherman out on my Grady White, several hours are spent trying in vain to teach them when to set the hook. The key word is patience, patience, PATIENCE! Let's take a look at how the fluke will pick up a



strip bait to see why patience is so critical.

When the fluke sees the bait slowly gliding along the bottom, it quickly intercepts it and grabs it by the tail. But the bait continues to move as the boat drifts, confusing the fluke. He will then do one of two things: drop the bait, or swim along with it while trying to figure out what's going on. In either case, your reaction must be the same.

This is where the all-important "drop-back" comes into play. When the fluke picks up the bait in the manner described, all that is felt by the angler is a nudge and a slight additional weight on the line, almost like a piece of seaweed that has been hooked. If the fluke elects to drop the bait, open the bail or put the reel into free spool and feed fifteen or twenty

feet of slack line out. This will give the fluke five or ten seconds to start swallowing the bait before the line straightens out with the boat's movement. If he is still hanging on, let him swim with the bait for at least ten seconds before making the next move.

Slowly, I repeat, slowly, raise the tip of your rod until it is almost vertical. When the fluke feels this added resistance, he will either try to let the bait go or continue to swim along with it. When a fluke decides to drop the bait, he simply opens his mouth and the weight will disappear from the rod. But if he has taken the bait past the "stinger" hook he will feel the hook, panic, and try to get away. When you feel him pulling, strike back quickly with two short, sharp jabs—as if you were driving a nail.

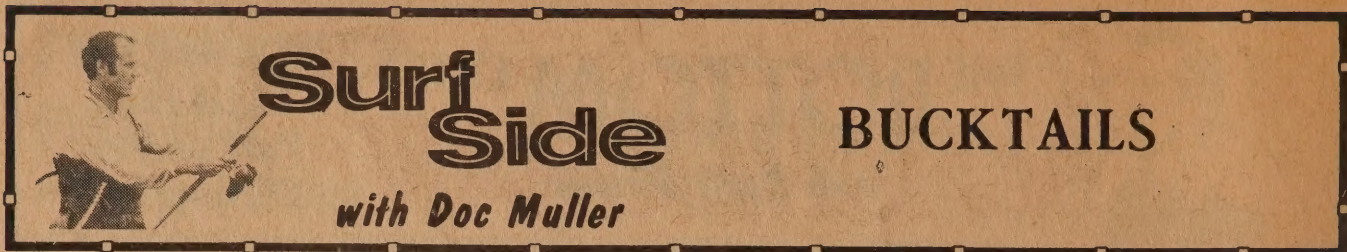
If the fish hasn't taken the hook the bait will be dropped and you must begin again with another drop-back. If the fluke decides to just swim with the bait when you lift the rod, drop back again and repeat every ten seconds. As long as the fluke is swimming with the bait he will only hold on to it, not attempting to swallow until the resistance lets up.

The important thing to avoid is striking prematurely, before the fluke has a hook in his mouth. If you strike and miss the fluke will be spooked, and rarely return. It is not uncommon to make four, five and even more drop-backs for a single fluke before he takes the hook and pulls back—and this is where the novice flukers foul up. They get aggravated with this cat-and-mouse game, think "the heck with it," and strike too soon.

If you find your patience wearing thin, slowly pump the rod and gain line as the tip is lowered. Keep repeating this and, hopefully, the fluke may think the bait is winning and try to swallow it before it gets away. When you can see and feel the weight of the fish in the bend of the rod, cross your fingers and strike: You may luck out, but don't count on it!

For tackle, the ideal outfit is a medium weight, seven-foot spinning rod with a matching spinning reel loaded with ten or 12 lb. test monofilament. The rod should have a fast taper, which is a whippy tip but plenty of backbone at mid-rod. The whippy tip is necessary to detect the

[Continued on page 46]



Surf Side

with Doc Muller

BUCKTAILS

Early June is one of the best surf fishing periods on Long Island, and unlike the fall months there are many species to draw our attention. The fishing is good on both the north and south shores; we have a good selection of species: you could connect with anything from fluke to bluefish.

If you roam the beaches this time of year there's one lure that will be in use more frequently than any other. Bucktails work almost anywhere: north shore, south shore, inlets, bays, sand bottom, deep water, shallow water. They compose perhaps the best all-around type of lure, and can catch almost every kind of fish that we find in the wash in Long Island waters. Even some that don't usually venture that close to the beach.

Why do they work so well? For the life of me I don't see why plastic shrimp lures appeal to weaks, fluke, sea bass and the like. They really don't look like shrimp and can be made to move like a shrimp only by experienced hands, yet everybody seems to produce with them. Bucktails, on the other hand, can be made to appear like squid, small baitfish, and even shrimp.

I was walking the sand beaches last year with my camera in hand, hoping to get some action photos of fall surf fishing. Almost all the fishermen were using chunks of bunker and a few were throwing live eels. No fish were taken.

Suddenly I saw a rod arc under the strain of a good fish, so I ran down to photograph the battle. The fish was taking the line in spurts in spite of the fact that the drag-setting was obviously pretty tight. The tip of the 11-foot stick throbbed as the fishermen worked the fish into the wash.

It wasn't long before the guy's buddy stuck the gaff to a beautiful bass. I waded in because I figured that I'd get a great shot of the fish on the gaff with a huge eel hanging from its mouth. But there was no eel! Embedded in the corner of the jaw was a 2 or 3 ounce bucktail and porkrind combination.

Interested in why this one fisherman should use a bucktail when the word on the beach was eels, I approached the angler as he unhooked the fish.

"I like my white!" That was it: short but very definitive. He believed in bucktails. His confidence was built

up by hundreds or possibly even thousands of catches like this one, and he learned how to make the "white" sing through his years of hard work and experience.

I don't suggest that you throw out all your lures and stock your bag with bucktails, no matter how valid the lesson of this story. "Match the hatch" is still a better watch-word than "I like my white!" Still, you should carry a few bucktails and learn how to use them.

First of all, bucktails come in many sizes and shapes, and each has a different purpose. Since most of the time these hairy lures work best when they are near the bottom, most fishermen select the shape and size that will get down there. Flat-faced bucktails produce a lot of water resistance and tend to rise when they're retrieved, so they would not be used when the water is deep or the current swift. Bullet-shaped heads cut through the water easily and can be used to simulate a squid that's darting around.

However, these jigs are sometimes a problem in strong currents because their broad sides produce a lot of resistance and may start to tumble, making it difficult for the fishermen to work them properly. The round head, like the Smilin' Bill, is a great producer and I guess that accounts for its durable popularity. The flat Upperman jig is also a great fish catcher. Because of its shape it falls easily through the water towards the bottom and for this reason many fishermen prefer it when conditions make it hard to get the lure deep.

Size can be an important factor too, and that's why guys who like to fish bucktails usually have an assortment of sizes from less than an ounce to perhaps three ounces or more. The fish may demand a small size when they are feeding on small baits such as sand eels, anchovies, or spearing. Then we had better hope that the fish are tight on the beach because you're not going to get much distance with a small jig. On the other hand, if the fish are deep or far off the beach, you can dig out a monster from your surf bag and reach them.

Color is always a touchy topic when applied to lures. Some guys believe that color makes very little difference and for many lures and situations I

would tend to agree. Bucktails are something else again. Although I have seen situations where red, yellows, pinks, or even chartreuse were the only thing that the crazy fish would eat, I don't think that this is the rule. I carry white and perhaps a yellow or two and that's it!

I make my own bucktails, so I finish them off differently. Some may have red eyes or yellow, black, and maybe even blue or green. The windings may also be yellow, red, black, etc. Sometimes the small amounts of trim colors make a difference.

I carry porkrind or squid strips in my surf bag, but a lot of fisherman use bucktails naked. I happen to like the flutter of one kind of hook embellishment or another. That embellishment may take many forms. Although we frequently think in terms of porkrind, don't forget that strips of squid, mackerel, fluke belly, shark belly, and even strips of an old undershirt work well.

Whatever your choice or color of strips, use them without the addition of a second hook because this extra steel only interferes with the action of the strip and really doesn't add to the size of the catch.

How do you use bucktails? There are some very successful bucktail fishermen who use a straight retrieve, some that make the jig dance in the

[Continued on page 46]

The Long Island FISHERMAN FISHING TRIP CONTEST

Louise Nadelman of Brooklyn called in to L.I.F. a description of her car by the Friday deadline to become this weeks L.I.F. litter box contest winner. Louise has been sent a check for \$10 and has also chosen a free fishing trip for two aboard the Amberjack in Sheepshead Bay for her prize. For information as to how you may participate in the contest, see page 19.



The Long Island **FISHERMAN**



FISHING TRIP CONTEST



The Long Island Fisherman is

holding a contest where our readers can win a fishing trip for two on the open boat of their choice and a \$10 cash prize. All the fisherman has to do is stop in at one of the 45 convenient locations listed below and pick up an L.I.F. litter box for the rear window of his car. Each week the license plate number of a car spotted with a litter box will be published—if it's yours, just call *The Fisherman* by 5 P.M. that Friday and tell us the make and model of the car and you're a winner! If no call is received by the deadline, the cash prize will accumulate.

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DIVING

with John Fennimore

New York BIGHT

An area containing several shallow water wrecks and associated barges; this is the N.Y. Bight.

The only way many of these wrecks can be reached is by boat. There are exceptions. Several small boats and barges lie close to shore. The only problem with these is that their condition is constantly changing, and it usually isn't for the better. Constantly being battered by waves and exposed by tides, they break up easily and get covered with sand very quickly. Most are held together by their main supports and the marine growth around them. Divers must exercise caution on such wrecks.

The main attraction on these smaller wrecks is the marine life. Mussels and clams left undisturbed for a few years are able to grow to giant size. These and other growths attract smaller fish, and they in turn attract larger fish, so underwater hunting is practiced regularly on these wrecks. But the larger wrecks provide the diver with everything. The possibility of finding some worthwhile trinkets is greatly increased. Also, the amount and variety of sea creatures is vast. The big shipwreck creates different reef conditions which are compacted together. Not only are there mussels, clams and crabs to

attract blackfish and bass, but sandy stretches within wrecks bring fluke and flounder as well. This variety provides the diver with an overall enjoyable experience.

One of these big wrecks is the remains of the "Black Warrior". This wreck was once a proud sidewheeler that sank in a storm in about the year 1859. It lies in 30 feet of water off Fort Tilden on the Rockaway Peninsula. This wreck has been pounded by fast currents, tides and waves for over 100 years. Now it has been reduced to mounds of twisted metal and decaying wood and has been strewn for about a quarter of a mile. This was the wreck where I made my certification dive. Many other divers have also, and many are being checked out on this wreck today.

The *Warrior* can be a very pleasurable dive if the visibility of the water is good, and "good" for that wreck is about ten feet. It has many big blackfish, but hunting is not advised when you're diving with a group, especially if they are beginners. There are a few lobsters to be had, though. But one of the more interesting features is the big metal sidewheel which is in relatively good shape, considering the *Warrior's* many years.

Surrounding the *Warrior* are barges and piles of stones, not to mention a few other wrecks. There are also artificial reefs in the vicinity. These all make profitable and interesting diving. Straight away from the *Warrior*, actually closer to the Ambrose Light, lies the wreck of the *Turner*, a WWII destroyer escort which exploded and sank, taking 138 sailors with her. To this day Naval officials do not know what caused the explosion, but sabotage has not been ruled out. The *Turner* in its past condition was a menace to navigation, and a potential explosive danger; It was further demolished to prevent such happenings. The wreck lies quite opened up in a 62-foot depth at high tide.

I was taken out on the *Turner* by a boat that is affiliated with "Bay Scuba Sports," a small dive shop in Brooklyn. It was a fairly good sized boat, 40 feet in overall length. The depth recorder finally mapped out the *Turner*, but land sightings were used to get a general idea of the area. This limits them to only diving the *Turner* on clear days, and that's okay, because diving on a rainy day isn't so hot.

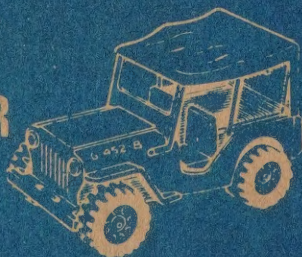
A buoy was dropped right on the center of the wreck and the anchor was let loose. My brother and I were the first to get down on. Another person was supposed to go with us, but he never made it to the bottom. His watch flooded, and he took off without saying anything.

The water got very cold at about the fifteen foot level. The temperature on the bottom was in the low fifties. And for late July this was pretty bad. The visibility was about 15 feet. It was as though you were diving in a big Naval junk yard. There was no current. I had planned this dive well. Checking the *Long Island Fisherman's* tide tables, and computing the boat's ETA, I knew high tide slack was at 10 AM, and knew that the boat would be there at approximately the same time.

As soon as I hit bottom, I began looking for some trinkets and, of course, lobsters. The lobsters that I saw were little bigger than cockroaches, so that was out. The trinket department was another disappointment; everything was fused together

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and I could pry nothing loose.

It finally hit me what this wreck was really good for; it could provide excellent hunting. The captain of the boat discouraged me from hunting, so I didn't bring the gun. But later he told me hunting was all right if I stayed away from the main body of divers. There were several large blackfish in the 8-pound class, and sea bass were all over. But this wreck is also good for another thing: It is a nice wreck to go sightseeing on, and have a nice long dive to really enjoy it.

I saw one huge cannon sticking out among the wreckage. It was in excellent conditions, smooth and hardly eaten by the salt water. Near the cannon, I looked into a dark hole with my underwater light and saw an unexploded shell. I figured that this must be a "super dud" after what happened to the *Turner*, but I wasn't going to find out by dropping it! I decided to bring back a broken handle from a piece of pottery that was lying a few feet from the shell. This I knew couldn't blow up in my face.

Thousands of bergalls swam around in one giant school. Obviously, the product of some mass spawning. The area surrounding the wreck was sandy, but its central region was covered with shells and stones. A white cloud of tiny shrimp and squid seemed to stay suspended on one part of the wreck. Conger eels lunged slightly out of their holes as we approached. Bait fish scooted above us as shadows of larger fish loomed in the distance. The small green bodies of pollock seemed to follow us everywhere as we moved over the wreck. Clams were partially covered in the sand, and crabs tried to cover themselves when we came near. All in all, it was a very pleasant and relaxing dive. I came back with almost half a tank of air, but my brother was very low. It must have been the excitement of the wreck. Back on board I remained suited up, ready to go, as a safety precaution.

There are other boats besides the one from Bay Scuba that make these trips. It would be wise to look into the different diving clubs to see what arrangements they can make. Another boat to look into is the Terry, docked on Knapp street at the Peter Pan Marina in Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn. The number to call for Bay Scuba is (212) 748-6848, and the number for the Terry is (212) 332-9574. Dive there, and I hope you get "bit" by the adventure of the Bight.



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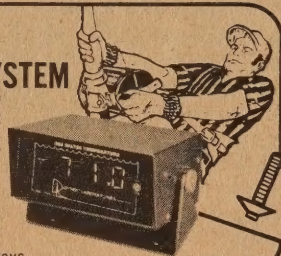
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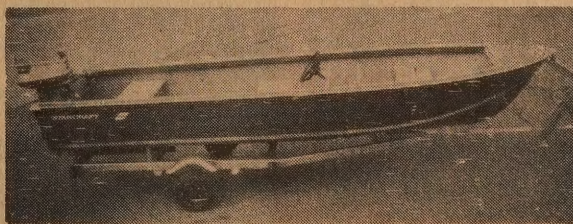


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Nantucket Wreck Fishing

A New Frontier

by Al Ristori

Knowledgeable anglers don't have to be assured that codfishing isn't what it used to be. The sad fact is that the commercial cod catch has declined precipitously in recent years, probably due to overfishing by the foreign fleets operating off our shores.

There were some good days last year, particularly during the beginning of the fall migration, and the Montauk fleet is hoping for a strong run of small cod at Block Island this spring followed by good fishing on Coxes Ledge in the summer. However, the picture isn't bright and it might take years after the foreign fleets are gone before the species can make a comeback. A sign of the times was the recent price of \$1.85 a pound wholesale for cod fillets at the Fulton Market!

In view of the fact that codfishing is apt to be generally below par in the near future, it makes sense to search out those areas that serve to concentrate fish. Deep water wrecks are the likeliest producers; and the harder they are to get to, the likelier they are to be productive.

The sinking of the "Andrea Doria" first attracted the attention of Montauk party boat captains to the potential of a number of wrecks off Nantucket. However, since these wrecks are located in an area 100-150 miles from Montauk, they aren't fished on a regular basis. Perhaps when faster boats are available such runs will be made routinely, but for now it's a matter of a few special trips each year by the "Viking Star" and "Peconic Queen". As word of the great fishing has spread, even Sheepshead Bay boats have gotten into the act. Capt. Fred Ardolino has made a couple of successful weekend trips in his "Amberjack" and is planning more this year.

I've made four Nantucket wreck trips on the "Viking Star" in the past three years and loaded up each time. Yet every trip was quite different in that any one of three species—cod, pollock, or white hake—would dominate the trip. Two years ago in May there was fantastic pollock action, while last year, at the same time, we had only a short burst of pollock fishing before the cod and hake took over.



Opening thousands of skimmer clams at night is one drawback to long range wreck trips.



The author with a 47 pound white hake from the "Republic".

Last September's trip produced tons of cod, though small fish made it difficult to get through to the cove. This April's expedition was the poorest of the lot. Perhaps it was too early, but the wreck didn't seem to be as heavily populated as when the waters are warmer. Cod were spotty and not too large but lots of giant hake

came aboard and a couple of us enjoyed fast pollock jigging in the bow during the last hour's fishing. By the time we headed for home, I had 7 pollock in the 20 - 25 pound class, 3 cod of 10-15 pounds, 2 big hake (21 and 44 pounds) and a couple of 2-3 pound bergalls (excellent eating). Not up to par—but still good fishing!

A typical "Viking Star" Nantucket wreck trip starts at 9:00 PM on a Sunday (or holiday) night. It takes 9-10 hours running time to reach Paul Forsberg's favorite wreck, the "Republic", located about 120 miles from port. Paul doesn't fish the "Andrea Doria" any longer: it's almost entirely covered with nets from foreign trawlers, leaving only a small piece of the bow to fish on. The "Republic" is a little further but Paul figures that it's worth the extra riding time to fish a wreck still clear of nets.

Finding a wreck far out to sea is a difficult task. Without accurate numbers and a Loran that's "right on", you don't have a chance to find your target. On the April trip, Paul found his Loran "A" readings to be way off, but the new Loran "C" system put us over the "Republic" without even having to use the sonar. A wind-against-tide situation made it difficult to anchor properly over the wreck and was probably the main reason for the comparatively slow fishing. Even under the best of circumstances, it's usually necessary to move several times during the morning as the tides change direction frequently.

The "Republic" is located in 240' of water and harbors a great variety of fish. Cod range from 2 or 3 pounds up to 50- and 60-pounders. Pollock usually run in the 20-30 pound class, though specimens in the 30's are common. A new all-tackle world record pollock of 43-¾ pounds fell for a clam bait last September. White hake very greatly in size but fish over 20 pounds are most abundant. This species looks like an incredibly fat-bellied ling and frequently weighs as much as 50-60 pounds. Big bergalls are usually a problem and a few cusk are often boated. Other species occasionally caught are wolffish, had-

dock, angler and ling. In September I even came up with a large bluefish—right on the bottom in 240 feet of water!

Most of these fish are taken on bottom with clam bait. However, pollock usually fall to a well-placed metal jig. Jigs of six ounces or more, depending on tide, will do the job and the bow is the ideal spot from which to work one. The technique is to flip the jig out as far as you can with an underhand cast. Let it sink to bottom or just above and retrieve at high speed. If you don't hook up by the time you get halfway up, then drop it down once more. Keep at it and you should come up with a load of pollock before the trip is over. The trick is to judge where the wreckage is and stop the jig just before it gets that deep. The pollock will be located quite a bit higher, so be sure to keep retrieving for a hundred feet or more.

With the anticipation gone, the trip back seems to take even longer than 9-10 hours. The mates will be cleaning fish for hours while most of the anglers rest up in bunks or reclining chairs. A feature of the return trip is the delicious meal (usually roast beef) prepared by Jim and Betty Mulhern. The fish come back in good shape, as plenty of ice is provided free of charge. Everything caught out of those deep, cold waters is a gourmet's delight. Not only are the cod desirable, but also the hake, pollock and yes, those giant bergalls. Give those other species a try and see if you don't agree.

Since relatively few trips are made to the Nantucket wrecks each year, it's wise to sign up well in advance. Reservations are required and the number of anglers restricted in order that everyone may be comfortable on the long voyage. The "Viking Star"



Filleting on the way home—it can't all be fun!

will make a few more trips this year, including one (in mid-June) which will leave a little earlier and feature a shot at tilefish as well as wreck fishing, while the "Peconic Queen" will hit the "Andrea Doria" again.

Nantucket wreck fishing has its "ups and downs" just as is the case with any fishing, but your chances of success are much better than average. Most of the customers on each trip are repeaters like myself: we must know something. See you aboard!



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Fisherman With A Camera

by Michael C. Porter

For the fisherman with a camera, the enjoyment of pleasurable days can be re-lived time and time again. Yet a good majority of fishermen probably never get the opportunity to record their successes on film, not to mention "the one that got away." The point is that, with the wide variety of cameras available today at an equally wide range of prices, most fishermen might find a camera a worthwhile addition to the tackle box.

Two of the most common questions are, "May I use my present camera?" and "What type of camera should I buy?"

Most people I know have an Instamatic-type camera and, for under twenty dollars, you can't go wrong, especially if you shoot but a few rolls of film each year and plan only to put them in the family album. If you plan to make enlargements, you may be disappointed when you see the resulting fuzzy photograph. The lenses supplied with this type of camera lack the quality needed for truly sharp pictures.

These lenses also only have one lens opening, or aperture, set for the average sunny day. They cannot handle low-light level situations such as sunsets or people standing in shadows; the lens cannot let enough light into the camera to expose the film in the time which the shutter is open. Another problem to the sportsman is that the shutter remains open too long for action to be "stopped" without blur. Even though 1/90 of a second sounds like a very short period of time, I often find that if the shutter is open for longer than 1/250 of a second, my photograph will be a bit blurred—especially in a stiff breeze on sloppy seas.

Another camera which I can't find much use for while fishing is the Polaroid. The photos are inferior, it does not supply a negative, and the price of the film takes the fun out of seeing an instant photo. With what you could save on the film alone by owning another type of camera, you could take an extra trip to the tackle shop.

In order for a camera to be useful in any sort of outdoor activity it must have a bit more flexibility than the above can offer. The top-of-the-line models of the new "pocket" cameras do offer a variety of controls, including automatic exposure, but the extremely



Anticipate the action and shoot when it is at a minimum.

small film size cancels the effect of their added versatility. The negative, being so small, cannot be enlarged to any great extent before it becomes fuzzy, thus cancelling the effect of the camera's higher quality lens.

For a few dollars more you can move to 35mm camera. I highly recommend this format in either single lens reflex (SLR) or rangefinder (RF) models as the best all-purpose cameras available. With the SLR you actually look through the camera's lens and see exactly what will appear on the film. If you change the lens, let's say to a telephoto, you will see exactly the same magnified image that will appear in the final picture.

With RF cameras you will be looking through a little window called the "rangefinder". Within this window are lines indicating the scene which will appear on the film for each lens used; however, the image you see will not be magnified by the use of a telephoto, except in the final picture. The prices for 35mm cameras start as low as \$100. You may or may not choose interchangeable lenses, built-in light meters, or manual or automatic exposure control. In effect, there is a camera available just for you.

Whether you already own a camera or intend to purchase one, here are

some hints to help you get high quality photographs of those days spent with rod and tackle. On bright days I would suggest the use of a polarizing filter over the lens, especially with color film; it will cut down on reflected glare and improve color saturation.

You might be surprised to know there are many films offered to the 35mm user that are not available for use with other types of cameras. For color photographs near the water I prefer Kodachrome 64, (ASA 64 according to Kodak, but I prefer to set my camera for ASA 80). I use this film for scenes which include foliage due to its warmer colors, and use Ektachrome -X (ASA 64) for the open waters.

When planning to photograph on darker days, a film of increased sensitivity (higher speed) like High Speed Ektachrome (ASA 160) may be necessary. The term ASA is a measure of the film's sensitivity to light. As the ASA numbers go up, the film is said to be of higher speed—more sensitive to light, thus allowing higher action shutter speeds.

For black and white photographs, Tripan film will do nicely. Its ASA rating of 400 allows higher shutter speeds for "stopping" action, even with the use of filters which reduce the amount of light reaching the film.

For filters I would recommend the

use of a yellow (K2) or an orange (G) to bring the black and white tones into a more natural balance with those of the original scene. Either will help to darken the sky, thus making clouds more visible and eliminating photographs with stark white skies. These filters are also great for achieving more detail in your photos on hazy days.

The common rule is to shoot with the sun at your back, but this is not always possible or necessary. This technique is used to help eliminate "backlighting", which would silhouette your subject. The problem here is that the subject needs more exposure to compensate for the abundance of light from behind. This situation will "fool" the built-in meters in most cameras, which will read a proper exposure for the background only. An average light reading is necessary here.

First, take a light reading of the background; eg. 1/125 at f/11, then one of the light on the subject; eg. 1/125 at f/5.6. Split the difference, eg. 1/125 at f/8, and in most cases you will be all right.

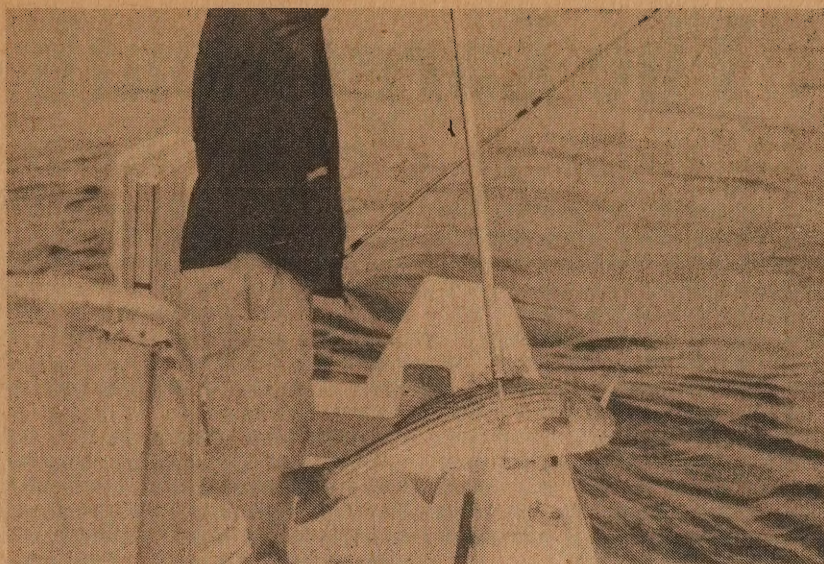
When shooting action, watch the scene through your camera and follow it, that is, move or "pan" with the action, and at the appropriate moment squeeze the button. Try to hold the camera as steady as possible and wait until the peak of action before shooting. Try to anticipate this peak, for at that moment the motion is at a minimum.

For example, when pumping in a hooked fish, shoot when the angler is at the peak of his upward movement and before he starts the rod down. During this time, between up and down, there is a split-second where the movement is minimal. Also, it is at this time when the rod is at its maximum bow—and this contributes to a dramatic photograph.

Try to remain calm and move your body and camera along with the action. This avoids sudden camera movement. Don't wait until the last second to pull the camera up to eye level. Concentrate on what you are doing and it will pay off.

Don't be afraid to use the film in your camera. Considering the number of exposures you get per roll with 35mm film, 20 or 36, the price works out to pennies per frame. It's a small price to pay for the chance of getting a photograph that you will be proud to show. I always shoot "slide" film, finding it much cheaper and convenient. If I find a particular slide I want a print of, I have one made and save the expense of having a whole roll come back as prints.

Remember: travel light. Do not take more photo gear than you need; for



Visualize the final print before you snap the print; don't cut off your best friend's head.



Relive the highlights of your fishing trips with pictures.

you also have to take your rod, tackle, lunch and foul-weather gear. If you have a camera which will accept interchangeable lenses, perhaps a zoom lens would be best. With it you can have a variety of different lenses in the convenience of one at your immediate disposal.

By all means, investigate your interests on photography. Take your time, start at the bottom of the equip-

ment pile, and work your way up. I know people who have twice the amount of equipment that I do, yet do not either know how to use it or have the time. Take a trip to a good camera store and look at what is available. If you take the time to get used to your camera, it will reward you many times over.



The Largemouth & Light

by Ron Miller

Since the opening of the black bass season on Long Island I have devoted all available spare time to the pursuit of this wily adversary. In paying attention to detail, it has proven hard to argue that the bass is not sensitive to light, or light intensity. On countless occasions I have heard it said that if you want to catch bass, you have to go for them early in the morning or late in the evening. These are in fact the most productive times unless you know where and how to look. The following accounts of several trips should serve best to stress this point.

On weekends I fish from early morning (dawn) to just before noon, and again late in the afternoon shadows until full dark. On weekdays I still get in the evening portion of these sorties, weather permitting. Living on Long Island, New York just minutes from Lake Ronkonkoma, I have the very good fortune to have the availability of several good bass waters at my disposal, where no more than a fifteen minute drive is required to get to them. As a result, I can and usually do spend every evening on a different body of water searching for that trophy bass to hang on my den wall.

Upper Yaphank Lake is a super productive spot for bass in the early days of the season. This is actually a wide spot in the Carman River caused by a dam at its southern end. This body of water is relatively shallow, and, being part of the river, is constantly flowing. As a result the water remains comfortable cool and aerated for its inhabitants, but too clear for the fisherman. The water clarity allows bright sunlight to filter down to the depths where, were it not for the weed growth and the water lily beds, the bass would have nowhere to hide. However one shore is lined with willows which hang out over the water to provide shade and cool comfort.

I have found that the lilly pads are the first area to look for the lunkers, working the area first with a popping surface plug such as a Rapala or Rebel. The bass in this lake are not the dreamed of hawg bass, but you can hang a few three- or four-pounders if you know where to look, and you don't need large plugs to do the job. There is a good side benefit to the smaller plug here, as there are some healthy-sized yellow perch in this pond that will strike a Rapala just as viciously as would a bass. After the lily pads, the willow bank is the next spot for the

action to show up. Because this is the side of the pond through which the river bed runs, the bottom deepens from the bank outward for perhaps twenty or thirty yards before beginning its upward slope toward the opposite shore. Swimming plugs and the plastic worms are the best ammunition here.

What has all this to do with light intensity? I began by discussing light and digressed to the frequency of my fishing trips and further to the conditions of a lake in Yaphank. With this as background for that yet to come, we can progress to the trips I mentioned earlier, but first, just a little more background.

In several treatises on bass and their peculiarities, it has been mentioned that scientific studies have shown bass are super-sensitive to light in direct, clear proportions. Gin clear water and bright sunlight drive these creatures into hiding in the darkest most dimly lit areas they can find. In a water body such as Yaphank Lake, the possibilities are limited to the bottom grass and the lily pad cover. There are no submerged logs or caves in the riverbank or really deep holes to which they may descend. The result is that when the water is clear, the fishing is very poor during daylight hours. However, on a cloudy day or in a light drizzling rain or at dusk, the fishing improves one hundred percent.

On the first trip to this lake, Mike Wolosin, a fishing buddy and I caught over twenty bass in less than two hours, taking ten keepers ranging from one and a half to two pounds. We arrived at dusk, put my canoe into the water and paddled out to the lily beds. Two swimming plugs with what looked like worm tails took fish on nearly every cast. The fishing was so wild we decided to come back the following Saturday morning, two days later, to see what we could do in daylight. We got there at sun-up and preseeded to cover every inch of water under the brightest sun of the year. We used everything we had in our tackle boxes. We tried floating plugs, poppers, swimmers, divers, plastic worms, spoons alone, spoons dressed with pork rind, and finally sunk to live nightcrawlers, the latter brought as a standby if all else failed. We caught only five keepers and one or two little largemouths that were not much bigger than the lures they were caught on, but with just as much fight in them

as their poppa would have had. I still can't help but admire the courage or is it gluttony of a four or five inch bass attacking and trying to swallow a three inch lure, regardless of the number of times I see it happen. After eight hours of effort on this brightly lit pond we had only five bass that were caught in the earliest part of the day on swimming plugs on the shadiest corner of the lake. I was impressed by this failure, and interested enough to carry the experiment a step further. I asked Mike if he wanted to join me the next morning, but he declined, more to his disappointment than because of his inability to make the trip on Sunday morning. He was even more disappointed when he saw me return home the next morning with one stringer full of bass and another loaded with large yellow perch and bluegills.

When I left for the lake it was very overcast, and looked like it would rain any minute. I don't discourage easily, and thinking that this would be an ideal third phase of the experiment, I packed my rain gear in the trunk of the car, loaded the canoe on top, and drove to Yaphank. As I was putting the canoe in the water, I saw two bass watching me from not more than ten feet away! There they were, holding in the current, watching every move I was making. Telling myself that if fish do communicate, I was in trouble, I decided to brave it anyway, and set out on the deep side of the lake over what would be the area of least cover. I paddled out about fifty feet from shore into the river current on what is the deepest part of the lake, which is less than ten feet. I dropped an anchor front and rear to hold the canoe parallel to the current and prevent it from swinging as it would on a single anchor.

I set up two spinning rods in separate ways to gain maximum effect. The first one was rigged with a float about four feet up from the number six hook on which a big night crawler was impaled through the egg collar. This was cast upstream about forty feet to allow it to follow the current back down past the canoe for the same distance. This will pick up the bluegills and yellow perch that are so abundant in these waters, not to mention the possible lunker bass lying in wait for such a juicy morsel. The second rod was rigged with a small, minnow-shaped floating-swimming plug. This will

swim at a shallow depth and in the event of a strike on the untended live bait, I can stop retrieving without fear of the plug getting hung up on the bottom when I drop one rod to land the fish on the other.

On the third cast of the lure, the first bass of almost two pounds decided to decorate my stringer. The second cast produced another scrappy largemouth of the same size. They were promptly joined by a yellow perch of thirteen inches. During all this action, with the casts aimed toward the shoreline, the lone night crawler slowly drifted downstream toward the canoe, as yet untouched by the obvious variety of fish between the boat and the shoreline. As the little yellow bobber got near the canoe it disappeared downward at an angle going downstream in a hurry. Since it has been floating from forty feet upstream, there was a dangerous amount of slack line out. I grabbed the rod to begin cranking line in furiously. The run of the fish and sudden tightening of line set the hook for me and the battle was on. I knew by the bend of the rod that this was no small fish, and I was sure that I had a granddaddy bass on, but couldn't raise him to a surface fight. Finally, when I got

him near the canoe and was about to reach for the net, I found out why the fight was all on bottom. I had hung a catfish (Bullhead) that would have tipped the scales at an easy five pounds. Removing the hook, I released him, much to the chagrin of two cane pole fishermen on the bank. The rest of the time I fished the lure, and in less than two hours had taken my limit of bass on one stringer and a mixed bag of fat bluegills and big yellow perch on another.

I have returned to this lake on many occasions, and to prove the theory of light and its effect on bass and other fish as well, each trip was a repeat of one of those mentioned. If it was a beautiful picnic type day, there were few if any fish. Overcast or dark drizzling days produced action most fishermen dream of. Fortunately, there are a number of good bass lakes and ponds nearby with sufficient depth and other qualities to make up for the bright day shortcomings of Yaphank Lake. Lake Ronkonkoma, from which my hometown got its name, has almost all of the finest qualities a good bass lake could provide in this part of the country. Parts of shoreline with reed type weedbeds, sand and gravel bottom, deep holes

ranging from twenty to sixty feet, fallen trees on the shoreline, a few of which remain rooted and thus leaf bearing on those branches above water, give Ronkonkoma its reputation as a bass lake. That, and of course the five to nine pound bass that manage to please or frustrate the local fishing fraternity. One can limit out on one to three pound bass, but the lunkers require a good deal of hunting. They are very cautious fish, and obviously didn't get to be lunkers by being careless. Tight lines!



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Tourist At Midway

by Doc Muller

The sea floor surrounding Montauk Point must surely be carpeted with fluke. From inner Shagwong to the Midway buoy, every time we dropped our rigs they received immediate attention from hungry fluke.

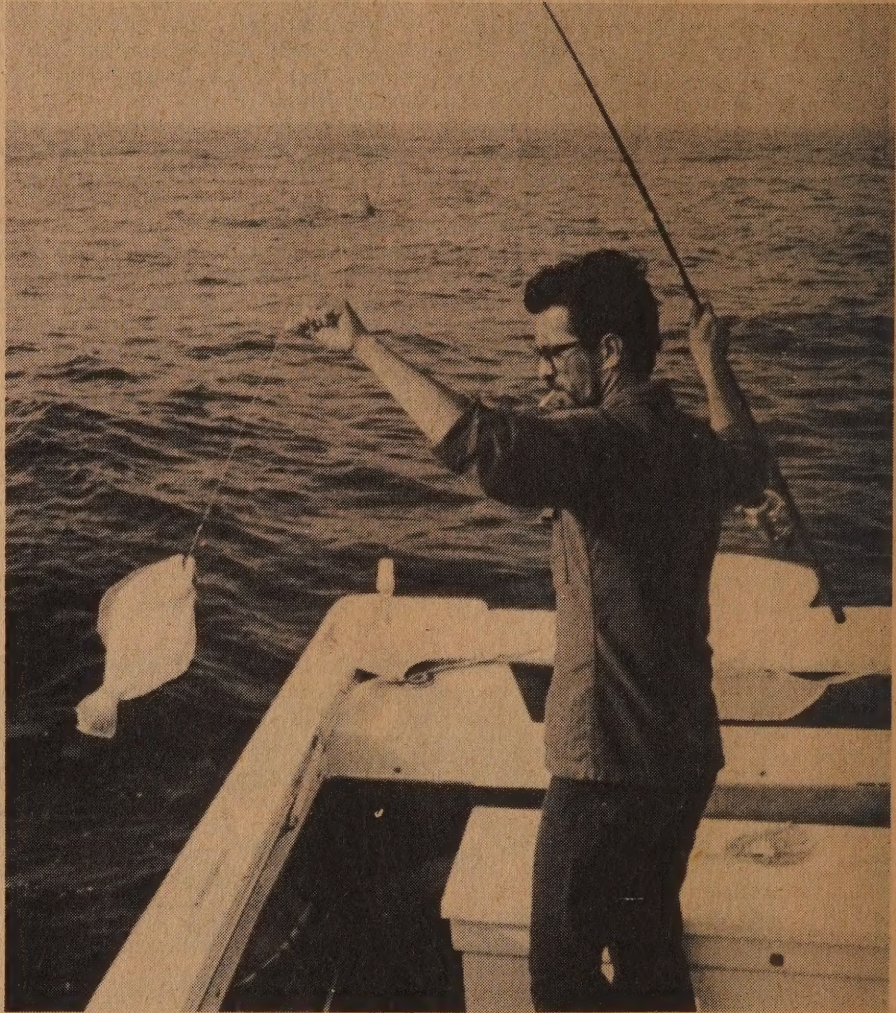
It was barely first light when Scott Simons eased the 19 foot skiff out of Lake Montauk into open water. A heavy haze obscured the horizon, so with our goal the Midway buoy, Scott ran along the shore to the light and then set a course to the east-northeast for the buoy.

My anticipation was high as Scott described a catch of 60 fluke he had made on the previous Saturday. For his two passengers, Rich Reina and myself, this would be a return to a kind of fishing that was now only memory.

Scott asked Rich to keep a close watch on the depth finder for the sudden rises that mark the Midway rips. Scott explained that there are a series of seven rips and that all of them hold fluke. After crossing a number of the rips he cut the engine and we baited up. We tied on Scott's special swinging tandem hook rig, which permits the natural presentation of the strip baits and a rear hook to catch the short-hitting fish.

I decided to try a sand eel as bait, and no sooner had it touched the bottom when I felt a feeble tap. In spite of Scott's warnings not to set the hook, I did so anyway and, of course, I lost the fish. He again reviewed the procedure for Rich and I.

It is especially important to be very alert and react to any and all changes that are felt through the line. It may be a slight tap, but more than likely it will be felt as a slight weight—as if the rounded sinker had momentarily caught on the edge of a round rock. That's how sensitive you must be to events below. At the first sign of any weight, free-spool line back to the fluke for about a count of five. Put your thumb on the reel, let the line straighten out, and lift cautiously. If the weight is still there but does not tug back, drop back line again. The procedure may have to be repeated five of six times before the fluke takes the bait. You must discipline yourself not to strike prematurely. Because fluke have bony mouths, it is important to strike the fish hard when he takes the bait.



Small fluke can be lifted into the boat by hand.

I baited up with another sand eel and lowered away. Rich had a hit and in spite of the fact that he followed the proper procedure, he missed too. Scott was the first to connect and he quickly brought a small fish aboard.

Following the second trip of my rig to the bottom I felt nothing, but when Scott suggested that we pull up and move back to the first rip, I discovered that I had lost the sand eel.

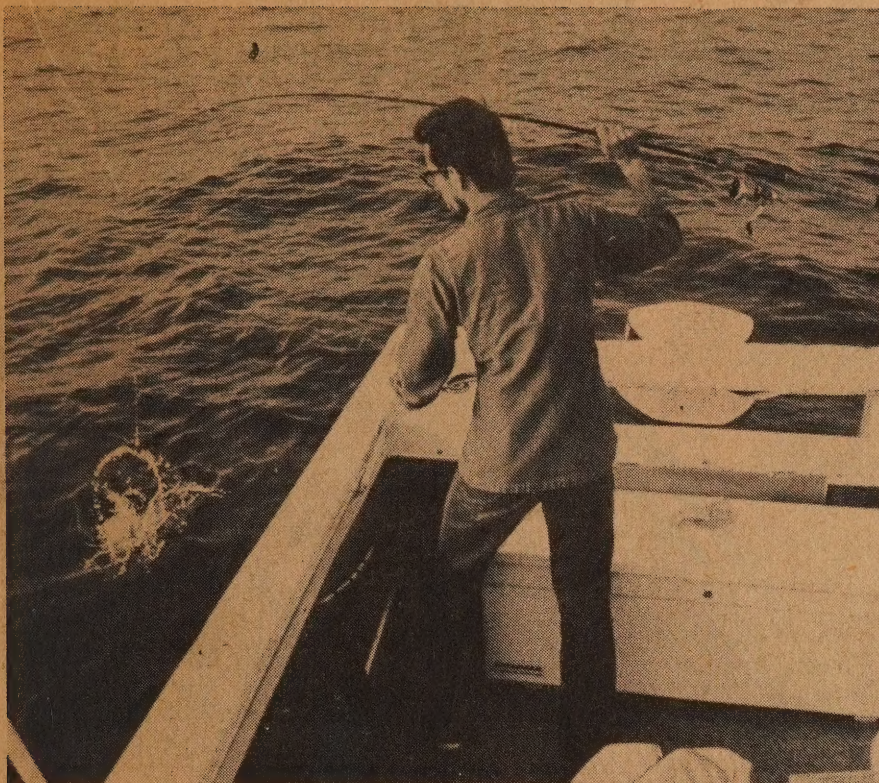
Undaunted, I continued. At the second drop I used a piece of fluke belly that Scott had prepared and previously frozen. The "Professor of Flukology" continued: "The best bait is freshly jigged mackerel which is cut into thin strips just like the fluke. Sand eels are good baits if they are large—at least six inches. The fluke that we've

been catching lately are spitting up sand eels frequently. But in the absence of these—far and away the best bait is strips of fluke."

He cuts the strips about six or seven inches long and about an inch or so across. Both the white under-side and the black back are used.

At the second drop I connected and, after having the experience of what a fluke caught in these deep waters feels like, we caught one after the other. Most of the fish were small and many were returned because they were under the 14 inch legal limit. REMEMBER—there is a fine if you're caught with undersized fluke.

The waters off Montauk are deep and cold. Between the rips, the water drops to 60 feet and then shoals up to



A small fluke puts up a surprising tussle at the boat.

about 30 or 35 feet on top of the narrow elevations. Most of the pick-ups come near the top of the rise, although we occasionally caught fish from the deeper waters too.

As the day progressed we moved around in search of big fluke which Scott explained were just beginning to move in, but we were not able to locate them. As I caught more and more fish I became proficient and had a number of fish hooked well back in the throat, which prompted Scott to note, "You're letting 'em have it too long!"

The captain had suggested that we bring along a light spinning outfit for this fishing. In addition, Rich and I both brought along conventional set-ups. He used an Ambassador 7000 on a long baitcasting rod and I tried a Penn Beachmaster on a short boat rod. Perhaps it was my inexperience, but I had a lot of trouble feeling the fish with the limber spinning rod. When I switched to conventional I felt more comfortable and was able to feel the pick-up more easily.

It must have been a matter of experience because our captain slaughtered them with his light rig. We were expecting an occasional bluefish to pick up the strip baits, and when Rich's sinker returned to the surface without the hook after a solid strike, a bluefish was suspected. He quickly reregged and added an extra ounce of lead to hold bottom in the quickening rips. The size of the sinker should depend upon the weight of the

line used and the strength of the rips and wind. The bait must be on the bottom. For example, Scott used three ounces with his light outfit, Rich used four, and I had to use five ounces with my slightly heavier tackle. The action slowed at Midway so we headed in toward Shagwong Point.

For those of you who want to try your hand at the Montauk fluke and do not trailer your own rig, there are good facilities at Montauk for fluking. To begin with there are a few head boats that fish for the flatfish daily. In addition, when the winds are light and the seas calm, the Shagwong grounds can be reached with small outboard skiffs that can be rented from several liveries in Lake Montauk.

There is much more to the story of the returning fluke, and I hope to gather more of the elements of the modern story as time goes on—particularly the techniques used for the big doormats, which is another ballgame.

We left for home with a handsome mess of filleting fish and an invitation from Scott to return in late August for a bout with a few monsters.

"There aren't as many fish," Scott cautioned, "but those you catch are big." Who cares if the action is a little less frantic if the fish compare to the skeletons of some doormats that I saw hanging at a nearby dock? I can't wait for August!



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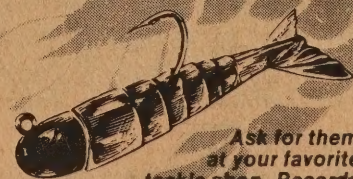
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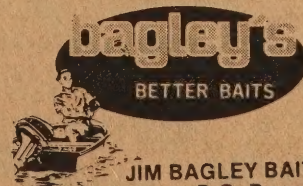
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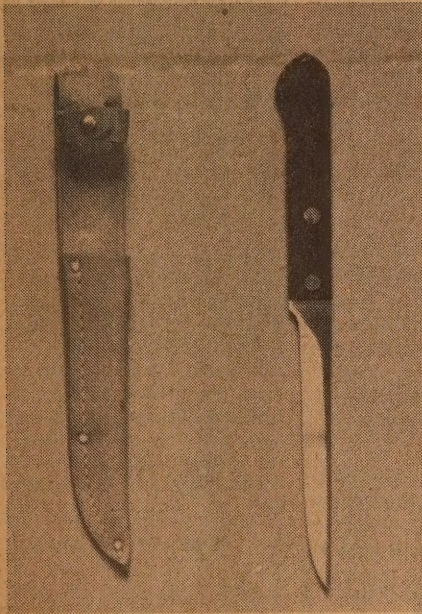
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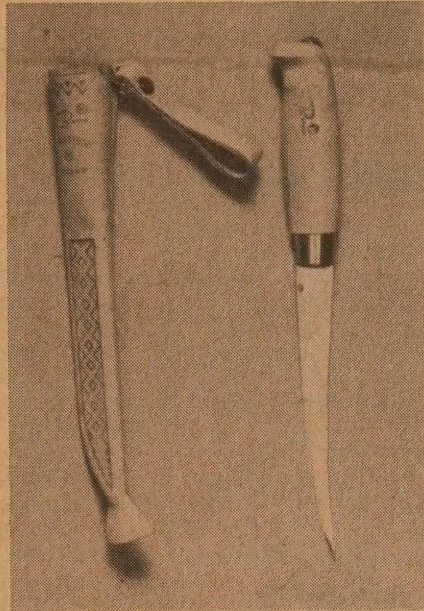
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SOUTH SHORE Fishing Report

MONTAUK

The big news at the Point is still the excellent striped bass fishing, however, it may be starting a down-turn. Ronnie at **Gone Fishing Marina** said that the bass tapered off on Saturday but came back strong again on Sunday. Fluking is improving daily and looks like a banner year. Bill Witchy, his father and two friends took 33 big fish up to 8 lbs. with only one throwback at the North Rips. Nice sea bass are being taken at the Pocketbook. Flounder are still good off Culloden Point.

Tuma's Bait & Tackle confirmed the excellent bass fishing with many fish in the 30's. Half-day charters are averaging 30 to 40 bass with a bluefish or two mixed in. The open boats are doing a good job with fluke, cod, and sea bass. Big flounder to 2 lbs. are being taken from the Town Dock and the jetties.

Lake Montauk Marina reported that the bass let up on Sunday and it was a tough pick. More bluefish are showing in the catches every day. Fluke in the North Rips are turning out real good, with many fish running from 5 to 7 lbs. A few fluke are still being taken on the South side.

Capt. John Sweetman of the **Ebb Tide** had excellent striper fishing Saturday and Sunday in Pollack Rip, the Elbow and at Great Eastern. Fish ran mixed sizes with the biggest coming over the gunwales at 44 lbs. 3 ozs. John said the switch from tubes to feathers had to be made. Shark and blues showed offshore and are thick as flees at the Butterfish Hole.



Joseph Bertoloso, left, took this 35 lb. cod and four other fish aboard the Peconic Queen II at Montauk. John Huizdak, right, took the \$207.00 pool with the 40 lb. cod he is holding.



Tons of cod and pollack were taken on the Viking Star's Nantucket Wreck Trip on June 1st, as can be seen in this photo. Next trip will be a 2-day "Safari" starting June 15th. Call for reservations.

Capt. Dusty of the **Little Bear** has been doing an excellent job on the sea bass at the Frisbee Grounds. Big humpbacks to 3 lbs. are taking clam baits and it looks like a great sea bass season is underway.

Capt. Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Star** said that cod and pollack fishing at Cox's Ledge has only been fair but the fish are large, 25 to 40 lbs. Starting June 18th, the **Viking Starlite** will begin making two trips daily for fluke, 8 AM to noon and 1 PM to 5 PM. On June 15th, the **Viking Star** is having a 2-day "Safari" to Nantucket Wrecks. It is being strictly limited to 25 passengers, so call ASAP for reservations.

"Fair fluking," is the word from Capt. Dick Vigilant of the **Triton II**. In Montauk terminology, "fair fluking" is 6 large fluke per man average, pool fish 8 to 9 lbs., and a throwback very rare. Bass have been very good all week, and a few bluefish are taking shark baits offshore. Blue sharks are plentiful. The charter boat **Montauk** took 9 over the weekend and the inimitable Capt. Frank Mundus of the **Cricket II** bagged 3. Capt. Freddie Bird of the **Flying Cloud** has been doing an excellent job on large sea bass at Frisbee.

Capt. Brad Glas of the **Helen II** reported excellent fluke fishing in the North Rips. Average per man is 5 to 15 fluke of 2 to 8 lbs. The fluke are running very large for this early in the season, so it looks like it may be a better year for fluking than last year, which is hard to believe.

L.I.F. staff member **Scott Simons** has been working on the bass with



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diamond jigs with mixed results. Squidding is not taking as many bass as trolling, but the fish taken are larger and the ratio has been steadily dropping and by this weekend, squidding should be out-producing the trollers. On Wednesday, L.I.F. publisher Rich Reina and staff member Doc Muller joined Scott on his Grady White Overnighter and bagged a dozen bass. Those taken squidding were all in the teens and up to 20 lbs., and a few schoolies were taken in front of the lighthouse on Rebels and Whiptails. Saturday, Scott and Rich returned and took 6 bass squidding. The largest was 21 lbs. and several were in the teens.

Capt. Paul Sundberg of the charter boat **Montauk** called to say that Raymond Clementz of the Bronx and his party took nine blue sharks to 100 lbs. and tagged 4. Paul also said that he has positively identified those weird looking red fish the L.I.F. staff took on his boat a few weeks ago as Sea Ravens.

The **Capt. Spider** called to report very good fluke fishing and this action is improving daily. Fares are averaging about 10 a man and most fish are in the 3 to 5 lb. class. Squid or fluke belly are both producing on all tides in the North Rips.

The **Julie II** had a 3-man charter on Saturday and they took 23 bass up to 20½ lbs. diamond jigging in the Pollack Rips.

Mike's Fishing Tackle in Farmingdale informs us that Lou and James Sparacio of Massapequa took 215 lbs. of bass at Montauk over the weekend. They trolled Bingle Lancers, Bananas and umbrellas between the lighthouse and black can number 3 in the rip during the last two hours of incoming water. Largest bass weighed in at 23¾ lbs.

Capt. Bud Dorman of the **Viking Skipper II** called to say that codfishing was good most of the week at Block Island. Arthur Richardson of N.Y.C. was high-hook on Thursday with 22 fish. Cod up to 40 lbs. and pollack up to 20 lbs. were taken during the week. The weekend fishing was down because of the weather.

PROMISED LAND

Art Brand of the **Promised Land Fishing Station** called to report slow flounder but nice fish at Gardiner's Island at Tobaccolt Bay with a few blackfish mixed in. First porgies taken at can 3 in front of the station and at Gardiners. Looks like a good year.

SHINNECOCK

Altenkirch Tackle said that the weather held fishing down, but the fluking was good in the canal. The fish went to 7 lbs. Bass are along the beach at dusk on bucktails, plugs and Hopkins. Small blues are all over the bay. Flounder still a pick and there are no weaks around.

HAMPTON BAYS

Tony's Fishing Station reported real good flounder in front of the station. Good fluke drifting sand eels or killies

and squid in East Channel and Buoy 20. All tides. A few snapper blues are around, however, they are scattered.

MORICHES

Romona Siefert of the **Silly Lily Fishing Station** reported very good fluke fishing between buoys 38 and 39 on all tides with sand eel and squid combos. Fish run up to 3½ lbs., but many shorts are around. Nice catches of flounder are still being taken at buoy 38 and east of buoy 39. There's also a scattering of snapper blues throughout the bay.

Mark at **Seatuck Cove Fishing Station** said that on Saturday Scott Holgerman took a 3½ lb. fluke. Another party took 14 keepers on Saturday. Not many boats went out due to poor weather. Fluke are now very good and improving. The New Cut and buoys 35 and 36 are the hot areas. L.I.F. subscribers receive a \$5.00 discount on a boat and motor when they present their L.I.F. Subscriber's Club Card and the discount coupon they received in the Fisherman's Package.

MASTIC BEACH

Keenan's Fishing Station reports very good fluking at buoys 23-26 on any running tide on live killies. Blues are all over the place on lures, with Hopkins working best and Rebels a close second. Good blue claw activity.

SAYVILLE

Youn's Fishing Station says the fluking is good with keepers running about 2½ lbs., with shrimp jigs and squid doing their thing. Small weakfish are still hanging in on shrimp jigs, all moving water. Bluefish are now mixed in, 3 and 4 pounders on the rubber shrimp.

WEST SAYVILLE

John at **J & R Sports** in Oakdale says that harbor blues and weaks are fair at Heckscher and West Channel on plastic shrimp, bucktails and whiptails and Johnson Sprites, which is a silver spoon. Some blowfish are kings are in the surf and underneath boats, hitting small bait.

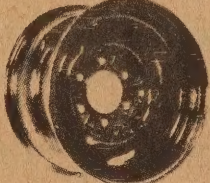
Marty at **South Bay Fishing Station** says it's been a great week. The weakfishing is good, and angler Ed Mossman, to prove it nailed 19 sea trout to 10 lbs. at buoy 19 on shrimp jigs on an outgoing tide. Lots of small fluke with roughly 3 out of 13 being keepers. Blues to 2½ lbs. at buoys 28 and 29 on Salty Dogs and Lupos on all moving water. There are kingfish at buoys 3 and 7 on squid. Spearing and shiners are in the water.

CAPTREE

Noel Kappauf at the **Captree Bait Station** tells us that fluke are off the pier on killies, sand eels and squid.



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Blues are taking Hopkins, Kastmasters and Krocodiles while weaks are hitting Lupos and Salty Dogs, both species intermingling at the bridges and bars. There have been big bass in the inlet over the weekend on Atom poppers, both from the beach and boats at dawn. Spearing and sand eels are in the water.

Capt. Bob of the **Capt. Joseph Fleet** called to say that the fluke were poor on Saturday and good on Sunday. Best fishing is now in the inlet and just outside, but there are many throwbacks. Conservation officers have been cracking down on keepers of short fluke less than 14 inches. Bags are being checked dockside and some officers have been reported on the boats themselves. Make sure all shorts are returned to the water unharmed. Bob noted that draggers from Virginia and North Carolina are sweeping the bottom clean of fluke, shorts and all. Those states have no size limits on fluke in effect, showing the necessity of Federal laws for migratory fish.

The **Lady Ann** reported slow fishing all week until a new run of fluke was discovered outside the inlet by the Bell Buoy. Fishing was good with 4 to 5 per man but there are many shorts. First of the ebb tide is best. Sea bass up to 1½ lbs. are on the reef outside but no fluke. Weakfishing has slowed down considerably.

The **Speedy V** reported a downturn in the weakfish action. Fishing is good some days, poor some days, and the fish are spread out with no big bodies of fish. Best areas are Robert Moses Bridge, buoy 4 off Heckscher and Sailors Haven. The Speedy V will now concentrate on fluke at 7 AM and weakfish on the 4:30 afternoon trip.

The **Capt. Rod** reports good catches of fluke and the fish are getting larger. Several over 5 lbs. were taken in the mouth of Fire Island Inlet on the change of the tide and later in the State Channel. A few school blues were mixed in the catch.

BAY SHORE

George at **Starfish Marine** reported good fluke fishing with plenty of medium sized fish being taken on sand eels and squid. Weakfish are spotty. Starfish now has the full line of the hot Lupo Danny Plugs in stock for the bass fishermen.

OAK BEACH

The **Store** informs us that a 37 lb. striped was taken off the Sore Thumb on live bunker on Friday night at the last on the ebb. There's lots of spearing and sand eels in the water, thereby lots of fluke and tons of shorts, all tides. Blacks on fiddlers at the bridges and pilings.

BABYLON

Mario at **Hi-Hook Fishing Station** reports lots of small fluke with 1 out of 5 taken being a keeper. Sand eels are doing it at the State Channel and Dickerson's Channel. Weaks and



Ed Delano holds the 9 lb. 8 oz. fluke he took in Fire Island Inlet on sand eels with several smaller fluke and a small bluefish.

blues are also being taken on fluke rigs. Try tying a short wire leader on for the blues. Sea bass and stripers are also hitting the fluke rigs and are also obliging those going specifically for them, all tides.

Charlie at **Charlie's Fishing Station** says lots of fluke, 1 out of 3 a keeper, keepers averaging 16 inches on squid and sand eels. Weaks are scattered but can still be taken on shrimp jigs with squid strips, with 12 per boat not uncommon. Sand eels, killies and loads of grass shrimp are in the water.

LINDENHURST

Charlie's Bait & Tackle reports that blues are on the inside on wire and umbrellas, red tubes being best on incoming water in front of the old Coast Guard Station half way between Cedar and Jones in 60 ft. of water. Blue claw crabs are in heavy at the Town Dock in traps and jacking. Sea bass up to 2 lbs. can be had off the Sore Thumb for casters and for boaters. Big stripers are being taken under the Fire Island Bridge drifting live eels at dawn. Plenty of fluke and some weakfish eating large killies on hi-lo rigs. Can spawning be over?

Duke's Tackle Shop reports mucho fluke along with tons of shorts, Fire Island Inlet being best on sand eels and squid. Larger fish should be moving in soon. Blues have been taken in chum slicks intended for shark, running 12 to 14 lbs. with one hitting 16 lbs., 12 miles due south of the inlet in 110 ft. of water. There's good flounder action at the Thumb which won't last long on bloodworms. There's excellent crabbing at the Wellwood Ave. town dock in traps with killies for bait. Weaks have

slowed down along with the drop in water temperature. Things should pick up again for weaks once the temperature rises again. Bass are being trolled in the inlet on umbrellas and bucktails. Bigger fish are hitting bunker spoons off Lido, and the beaches are producing here and there for casters on poppers and tins.

AMITYVILLE

Fluking is excellent reports **George Combs Bait & Tackle** at the Wantagh drawbridge, Goose Creek, West Island and Amity Cut. For best results use a chum pot with burr'er chum, and live killies on a fluke spinning rig at flood tide. Throw back all those short fish, and keep the keepers. Bassing is fairly good on live eels and plugs and also chumming at the appropriate times at the State Channel, from Gilgo to Zach's Bay. Small bass and blues are being trolled at both inlets on Sekora triple-header coat hanger rigs, white and purple working best. Weaks are slow and can be picked up on hi-lo rigs on sandworms.

Jonas Bait & Tackle reports fluke in the inlet and State Channel with lots of short fish about 18 out of 50 in the keeper class. Cedar Beach has given some bass to casters using live eels and boaters drifting same. Trolling eels and umbrella rigs from the inlet to Moses Bridge is picking up fish also. Blues have surfaced in Copiague Bay and Fire Island Inlet and Hopkins tins are fishing them out around Meadowbrook Bridge and in the inlet. Weakfishing is spotty, but West Channel produced 40 in the 5 to 9 lb. range on white bucktails and shrimp jigs for one angler that stopped in to Jonas at Montauk Highway.

SEAFORD

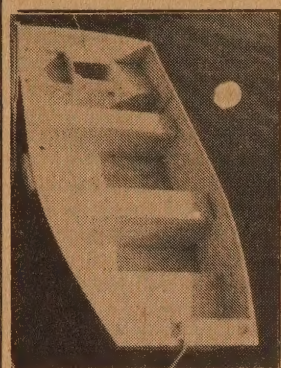
Pop's Fishing Station reports that nice fluking with keepers to 8 lbs. are being taken between the drain and Four Corners with many throwbacks in between. Flounder fishermen should try Hay Hole and Black Banks on all tides on bloodworms. The fluke are hitting sand eels, killies and squid.

Dell's Fishing Station reports 43 keeper fluke between the first and second Wantagh Bridge on sand eels, killies and squid for Brooklyn residents Dan Borrelli and Mike Andcey-cisk. Joe Como and friend boated 24 keeper size flounder east of the drawbridge on bloodworm and mussel chum.

Mike's Fishing Tackle in Farmingdale informs us that Jones Inlet's new cut produced 16 keeper fluke in the 2 to 4 lb. range on incoming water, squid and sand eels doing the job for one customer.

The **Lucky Strike** has been doing very good on fluke in Jones Inlet. Many fish are throwbacks but the keepers are a healthy 3 to 4 lbs.

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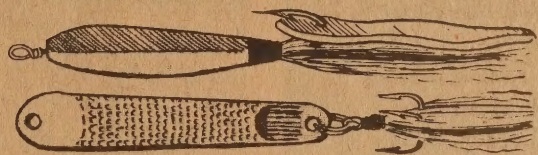
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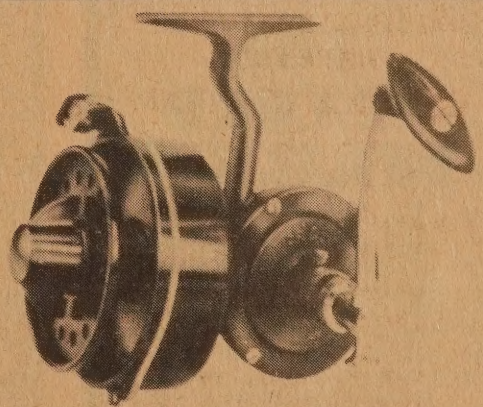
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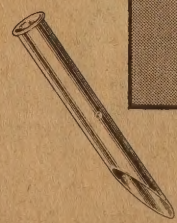
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MERRICK

Jimmy at Nick's Fishing Station reports lots of shorts amongst the keeper fluke at Funday, Merrick Hole, Broad and Ned's Creeks on both sides of the high on killies, sand eels and squid. Saturday saw 25 monster blues to 13 lbs. taken on mackerel chunks at 140 degrees out of Jones Inlet in 100 ft. of water by John and Ken Baiko and friend of Uniondale. Sharks were desired but they had to settle for the choppers. Frank Figuero of Merrick Marine Supplies nailed a 52 lb. 8 oz. bass on night time drifted eels in the Wantagh Bridge-Zach's Bay area. Lots of bass at bridges now. Several 40 pounders have been taken.

Your reporter drifted Jones Inlet all day Sunday for a grand catch of 4 keeper fluke, on sand eels. Big deal.

N.Y. BIGHT Fishing Report

FREEPORT

The Starstream II reports continuing good sea bass and black fishing. On Saturday and Sunday, everyone was satisfied. Friday saw the first bluefish catch of the season.

Roy at Mako Marina informs us that the "Old Timer" of Squadron Anglers had 11 blue shark up to 115 lbs. and six bluefish between 10 1/4 and 11 lbs. southeast of Jones Inlet in 120 ft. of water Sunday. Roy also tells us that one boat that stopped at his place was the recipient of \$250.00 worth of short fluke fines.

Hudson Point Marina reports that on Saturday Bob Kuno had two bass on live eels off Lido Beach Jetty at dawn and he repeated this eel act on Sunday. These were 20 lb. class fish taken on a high flood. A 24 pound striper was nailed on Monday on a trolled umbrella rig off Long Beach in 30 ft. of water. Fifteen fluke to 3 1/2 lbs. were taken Saturday in Jones Inlet by



Ken Rogers took this 37 1/4 lb. bass west of Jones Inlet. Photo courtesy of Mako Marina, Freeport.

fledgling angler Lou Goldman.

Anthony's Fishing Station tells of very good fluking, but lots of short fish as well. At the first little Meadowbrook Bridge, one customer nailed 15 up to 3 1/2 lbs. on killies and squid. A few sea bass seem to be mixed in with the fluke now. Try Swift Creek. Anthony says that there are fewer throwbacks than previously. He has also added on a few new John Dorys to his fleet.

POINT LOOKOUT

Ed's Fishing Station reports very good fluke fishing last week. Jones' Inlet, Middle Bay and Reynolds Channel, east of Jones Inlet, were the better spots. Most baits worked okay. Lots of short fluke, about five to one on keepers but the keepers were all nice size. About half way into the incoming tide seems best in the inlet while the first couple of hours are good in the bays. Flounders of one pound and better and lots of them are taking worms at Swift Creek.

ISLAND PARK

Capt. Clem of the open boat Commodore reports wonderful fluke fishing this past week. Riis Park and the Rockaway Playland were the best spots. There was a lot of action along with many throwbacks. Everyone had ten to a dozen keepers. Capt. Clam said there is weakfish action in the back drains for those willing to put in the time. Blue claw crabs are also showing.

Beckman's Tackle in Lynbrook told us of some good beach fishing for striped bass. Dennis Rooney of East Meadow, on Saturday night, took six bass on live bunker. He fished the Short Beach side of Jones Inlet with live bunkers. The six fish weighed 19, 25, 28, 29, 33, and 37 lbs. respectively. Fluke fishing has picked up on the inside with fewer throwbacks. Duck Point is the favored spot.

Capt. Don Eichin of the Shearwater with mate Mike Landi and George Dennis of Starfish Marine nailed nine stripers up to 30 lbs. over the weekend. At one point on Friday night three bass were on at the same time, all trying to digest white and gold Lupo Danny trolling plugs. This was twilight fishing, though dawn hours produce as well. On Saturday night, George nailed his first striped bass ever, a fat 28 lb. battler, also on the Lupo Danny trolling plug. All the fish taken were in the 20 lb. class and the plugs were moved along at normal trolling speeds. Capt. Don is really excited about this new lure and says it's the hottest thing to hit the striped bass scene in years. Striper action is reasonably consistent in the Playland area both on lures and on bunker. Don advises that fishing is hot and he still has choice charter dates available to get in on this action.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Capt. Ron Lepper of the Kim reports that Monday and Tuesday were good for stripers at Sandy Hook on bait, Lupo spoons and Danny

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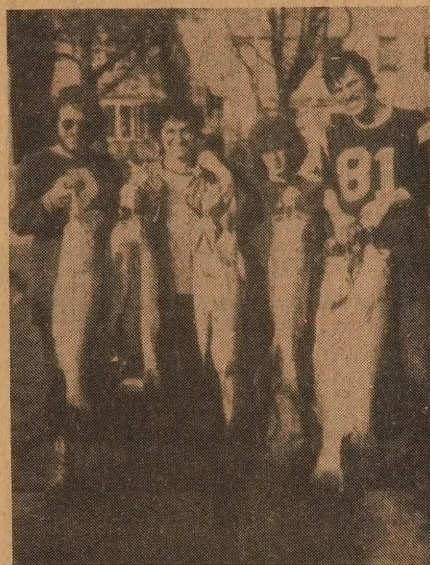
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Tommy, Morris, Nicky and Spencer with the 14 bass ranging from 6 to 35 lbs. they took casting from the Rockaway Jetty at night. Photo courtesy of Stella Maria Fishing Station.

plugs. All fish are big. Wednesday, with water temperature falling to 58 degrees, the fishing died. Thursday and Friday, with water temperatures going back to 65 degrees, the fishing was excellent again. Saturday temperatures dropped due to the north wind and fishing dropped also. The Rockaway and Long Beach areas are enjoying daybreak action regardless of tide. These fish are 15 to 35 lb. variety and are taking mainly Lupo spoons and Lupo Danny plugs.

Leon at Henning's Fishing Station said there are fluke all up and down Reynolds Channel. It seems the further east you go the bigger are the fluke. Boats are averaging ten to fifteen nice keepers of about 2 lbs. average. Sunday saw clam chumming again at the bridge and some bass were taken. Blackfishing remains good at the rock piles and the bridge. Striped bass fishing is good at the Rockaways using plugs, live bunker or bunker spoons. Bunker spoons and live bunker took most of the bass, some of which went to 40 lbs. Shark fishermen out at the HA Buoy lucked into blues of 12 to 15 lbs.

JAMAICA BAY

John Brando at Cross Bay Rod & Gun said the fluke fishing at the inlet



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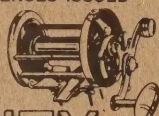
runs about 60% keepers. Blue claw crabs are starting to show and are of pretty good size. Blacks continue plentiful at Rockaway Point and the Marine Parkway Bridge. Striped bass fishing is on the picky side. Flounder fishing is just about finished.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Harold Anderson at Bay End Dock says there are plenty of fluke all over. Plum Beach flats, Marine Parkway Bridge, Coney Island and the Rockaway jetties are the better spots. Squid and sand eels are mostly what they're hitting on. The tides best is the last half on the incoming and the first two hours of the outgoing. Blackfishing seems to be falling off with Manhattan Beach remaining the best spot. Some blues were caught at the Tin Can Grounds and Manhattan Beach on the top. A lot of striped bass at Tin Can Grounds and Ambrose Channel being taken on bucktails or the Bingle umbrella rig. Clam chumming is also producing some bass.

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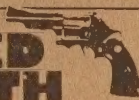
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STATEN ISLAND

Richie Moore, mate on the open boat Teal, said fluke fishing remains very good. They are catching better than five apiece with weights up to 3 lbs. and better. There are more and more signs of bluefish and as soon as they firm up they will switch over.

Santo's Sport Shop said the surf bass fishing from the local beaches are producing nice size bass of three and four pounds. Worms and Rebels are the best to use. Penny Beach, South Beach storm sewer and Great Kills

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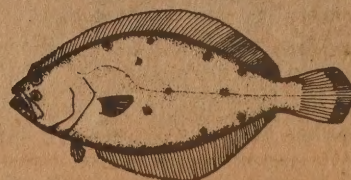
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Park are the better spots. Princess Bay and Tottenville are also producing schoolies on worms. Blacks are still around at most of the jetties and are of 1 and 2 lbs. with occasional 3 and 4's. Fluke fishing is on the upswing along the bulkhead at Great Kills Park. Weaks of 1 and 2 lbs. are also being taken at Great Kills by striped fishermen using worms. Blues are slowly coming up and are best fished early in the AM. Flynn's Knoll and the west bank lighthouse offer the striped fishermen good catches when they use 2 to 3 oz. bucktails and the Bingle Gorilla rig.

NORTH SHORE Fishing Report

GREENPORT

Art White's Bait Shop reports a continuing slaughter of striped bass in Plum Gut. Early AM and evening drifting of a yellow bucktail on a six-foot leader attached to a 10 or 12 oz. sinker is working well. Many fish have been taken, some of 30 and 40 lbs., for a total catch of several hundred pounds. Weakfish continue to do well at Louie's Beach and the mouth of Deering Harbor. Casting with worms towards the beach off Hay Beach has produced a good quantity of striped bass. Good blackfishing can be had along most of the Sound shore. Although the draggers are picking up boxes and boxes of porgies in Gardiners Bay, as yet they are not hitting worms for the boat fishermen.

Capt. Jerry Wren of the **Mighty Mouse** reports he did a moderate job on weaks and porgies on Saturday using squid on all moving tides. On Sunday he put the Baldwin Rod & Gun Club on top of sea bass and blackfish at secret drops at Orient, Tobaccot and Bostwick on soft baits mainly. Sea bass were up to 1½ lbs. and the blacks up to 5 lbs.

SOUTHOLD

Port of Egypt Fishing Station said there is some weakfishing at Louie's Beach and on the Shelter Island side by the ferry jetty. Porgies are fairly well at buoys 17 and 18. A couple of fluke have also been taken in the same area. Stripers are hitting bucktails in the early morning incoming tide at Plum Gut. They are of mixed sizes to 25 lbs.

NEW SUFFOLK

The weaks seem to be slowing, according to Capt. Marty's Fishing Station. There are a considerable amount of porgies throughout their fishing area. The blowfish catches are increasing along with the kingfish. Blacks can be had from buoys 22 to 30 and west of Robins Island.

JAMESPORT

Warren's Tackle Center in Aque-



Mrs. Woodrow Shelley of Newark, N.J. caught these 22 weakfish up to 6 lbs. and 42 porgies up to 2 lbs. near Buoy 30 southwest of Robin Island. Weakfish were taken on squid and sandworm and the porgies with skimmers and worm. Photo courtesy of Capt. Marty's Fishing Station.

bogue reports nice catches of porgies and weaks in the South Race. The porgies are taking their usual worm and clam bait. The weaks are showing a preference for squid strips and seem to be rejecting the shrimp lures. Striped bass fishing in the Sound is an evening proposition. There are just a few and they are being taken on worms. Blackfishing is fairly good in

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the Sound and they will hit either fiddlers or sand worms. Flounders are still to be had in the Peconic but ask Warren for the current hot spot.

WADING RIVER

Wildwood Deli says the blacks and flounders continue well with an increase in the porgie catch. Blacks are to be had at New Castle Rock using fiddlers or sandworms on an incoming tide. Porgies to one pound are being taken on squid and are scattered and mixed with the blacks.

MOUNT SINAI

Queensland Cove Tackle Shop reports porgies on 3/4's to 2 lbs. on sandworms at Miller Place and other local spots. The striped bass are providing scattered catches of schoolies of 5 to 8 lbs. on sandworms. The boats are getting weakfish of 1 1/2 to 2 lbs. drifting squid along Sound Beach. Blackfish are still nice around most of the rocks and go to 10 lbs. Five year old Shawn Gartmayer caught his first fish ever. It was a 4 lb. 4 oz. blackfish taken on a double rig and the other hook had a nice size flounder.

Lots of blacks at Miller Place and Rocky Point, according to **Ralph's Fishing Station**. Porgies are in most areas but the catches slowed over the weekend. Weaks and fluke can be had if you drift along the beach with a squid strip or a sand eel. Sea bass, as large as 4 lbs., have taken squid, clam and worms while fishing for blacks.

PORT JEFFERSON

The **Betty W** fishin during the week as an open boat did very well on blacks and porgies. Pool fish were 8 lbs. and better. Thursday and Friday the fishing slowed with the wind, but improved greatly on Saturday. Saturday's charter was the Lighthouse Fishing Club of Uniondale. The eight men caught 100 blacks among them, the biggest fish was 9 lbs. John Gorman was high hook with 20 while Frank McGrath and Jake Rodick tied the pool with a black of 9 lbs.

NORTHPORT

Larkfield Sports Center reports striped bass being trolled on bucktails. Try Eaton's Neck. Blacks are plentiful at all the rock piles and are taking worms and crabs. Porgies are coming up and a few sea bass have been taken along with them. Weakfishing seems to be very spotty. Bluefish were reported in Huntington Bay.

Tom Bowman of **Bowman's Tackle** said the blues hit the beach Saturday morning at Waterside Park. One lucky fisherman was there to catch 15 of these 1 to 3 lb. blues that moved into the beach and then moved out and were gone. Striped bass have been taken in Northport Harbor at the tip of Sand City, at Duck Island and Honeyman Point. Tom says to troll close along the beach with a Cape Cod or June Bug spinner tipped with worm or sand eels. Evening or early morning at high tide is best. The first fluke of 4 lbs. was taken at the Coast Guard Station while bottom fishing for blacks



Hugo Mandraccia of Brooklyn with some of the 40 weakfish caught aboard the Brand X out of Greenport on May 22. All fish were caught on pink Salty Dog shrimp lures with fluorescent red head. All fish ranged from 4 to 9 lbs. This is a L.I.F. subscriber photo.

with worms. Blackfish are holding up well on the south side of Sand City and at Eaton's Neck Coast Guard Station as well as Target Rock. Use green crabs for fishing blacks from a boat while the fiddlers stay on the hook better casting from the beach. Porgies are definitely on the upswing.

The trailered charter boat **Jennie** Three reports good blacks and flounders at Eaton's Neck on the incoming tide. These fish took clams and worms. Quite a few porgies and a few blowfish were also taken.

HUNTINGTON

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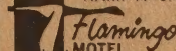


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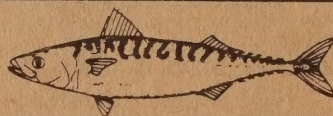
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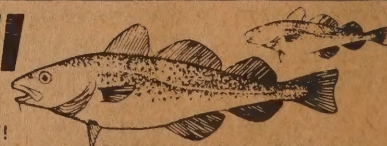
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blacks are still fairly productive at Eaton's Neck. They are taking clams and fiddlers. Porgies are good at Sand City and the weaks are spotty there. Some weaks can be had off Centerport and at Duck Island on sand worms or Salty Dog lure. Dr. Renner of Huntington came in with a 5½ lb. fluke that was caught while drifting squid off Sand City. Striped bass fishing at Huntington and Cold Spring Harbor is picking up. Troll a spinner-worm combo during the day and a straight worm at night. Marshall Field has had some catches of striped bass to 25 lbs. that took live bunker or mackerel chunks.

The Ever Ready Fleet is happy to announce the return of the \$6.00 fare (see ad for details). Fishing was a little slow over the weekend, though Phil Wilmsburg on Saturday took an 8½ lb. black and on Sunday Koji Shioda of Flushing nailed a 7 lb. black. These pool fish were taken about 400 ft. off the Eaton's Neck Coast Guard Station.

GLEN COVE

John at Glen Cove Sports Shop said the first blues of the season were caught at Mattinecock Point by fishermen jigging for weaks. They switched to the regular Hopkins or Krocodiles and hit 3 to 5 lb. blues on top. These blues were also trolled on umbrella rigs using small Sekora tubes. Some weaks have also hit these trolled rigs. Ronnie Oldenberg, on Friday, took a 10½ lb. weakfish at Mattinecock Point on a 7/8 oz. Atom swimmer. Jigging with tins or shrimp lures with pork rind have produced 6 to 8 lb. weaks at Mattinecock. These fish also range to the Glen Cove breakwater. Blackfish are very good and take either clams or fiddlers. Saturday saw big mackerel of 1½ to 2 lbs. hitting trolled mackerel trees.

PORT WASHINGTON

Moreland's Bait & Tackle reports worming for striped bass is good at all points. Poppers are also taking their share of fish. These are schoolies to 6 lbs. Plenty of blacks at all rocky areas on crab baits. An occasional weak has been taken along with the blacks.

BAYVILLE

Pump's Park Fishing Station says "when you're hot, you're hot." And Centre Island Reef is hot. Porgies of 1 to 1½ lbs. are hitting worm and clam bait. Blacks of good size are also to be had there. The first blues of 8½ lbs. was taken on a cast Rebel at the reef. The blackfish at Centre Island Reef and the old Cold Spring Harbor

lighthouse and jetties are taking worm bait with fiddlers as second best. Again on Centre Island Reef, a slow drift with sandworms or a hunk of squid will get you some nice weaks. Striped bass are here and there and hitting Rebel plugs.

CITY ISLAND

Jack's Bait & Tackle says the blackfish continue to be had in good

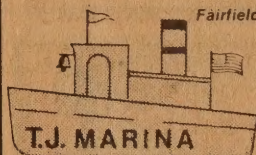
quantities throughout all the rocky areas. Many fish to 10 lbs. have been taken. This past week the porgies started out strong and then became spotty. Possibly the 1 to 2½ lb. blues that were trolled on Rebel plugs in back of Harts Island could account for this downturn. The mackerel are still bouncing around with catches being up and down. The striped bass are hitting mackerel baits at Harts Island.

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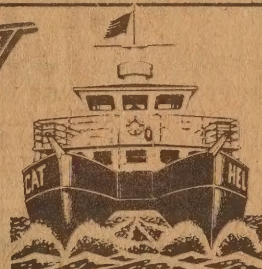
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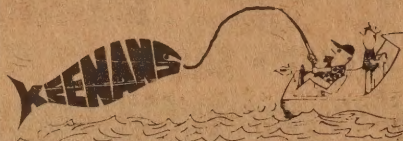
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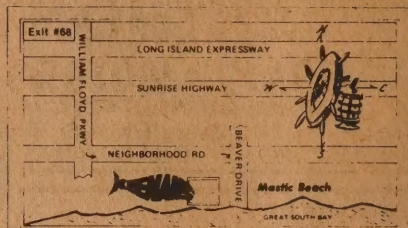
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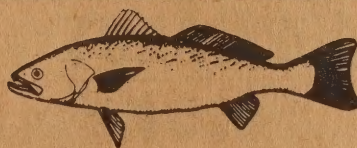
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PROUD OF YOUR FISH? Register it with American Anglers and receive as permanent recognition a Handsome Certificate designed for framing, suitable for Dens, Club Rooms, Children's rooms, etc. forward date caught, and where, species, angler's name, weight, along with \$4.95 to DF. Box 441, Huntington, N.Y. 11743.

HAMPTON BAYS extra large 3 1/2 room efficiency: on Bay sleeps family of 4-6, beach-pool, play area, cable T.V., air cond., dock, free row boats, any full week starting June 23-24-25-26. \$175.00 for entire family - 4th of July Full week specials - Brochures on request. Hampton Arms Resort, 61 W. Tiana Rd. (516) 728-4161.

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BUCKTAILS

[Continued from page 10]

water like a butterfly. But for my money the best way to produce with bucktails is to get them deep and bounce them along the sand. This isn't as easy to do well as it sounds.

It takes concentration, perseverance, and determination to stick with bucktailing. You have to be prepared to lose some lures or you won't catch fish. You have to be in communion with the movements of the bucktail below, so that you can sense its speed and its distance off the bottom.

There is an awful lot of food that bounces around the rocks and debris on the bottom, and as the bait moves it stirs up little puffs of sand and darts around and over the rocks. So cast the lure out and let it sink. Once it touches the bottom begin your retrieve, by quick lifts of the rod tip. Each downward movement of the tip should allow the bucktail to strike the bottom and each lift of the tip should be quick enough so that the lure appears to jump up off the bottom.

The angler should establish a rhythm and concentrate so that he stays with it. Lose the rhythm and you'll lose the fish. Sometimes it pays to bring the lure up to the surface and

then allow it to settle back to the bottom. The exact rhythm depends upon where you're fishing, what the fish are feeding on, and the conditions of the piece of water that you're working.

One thing that has always bothered me about store-bought bucktails is that the manufacturers use too much hair. I suppose that a lot of hair catches a lot of fishermen, but my experience indicates that skimpy tails are more effective than full ones. Since I make my own, I can tie them to my preference.

The one exception that I have found is the recently developed Shrimp-n-Tails made by Tri-Fin. Many of you have used these lures this spring on weakfish and I'm sure that the white and yellow models will produce on bass and blues as the season moves along. In any event, if you do use any of the other fine bucktails on the market, try trimming off some hairs from the inside near the hook and I think that you'll find that they are more effective.

So concentrate and try throwing bucktails this spring.



ADVANCED FLUKING

[Continued from page 9]

light pick-up of a fluke, and you will need that backbone for the larger fish in the doormat category. Fluke will lie flat on the bottom, using the weight of the water above to create a suction that must be broken before you can begin working them to the surface. As a rule, I have found conventional tackle inferior for advanced fluking.



Block Island codfish of 16 to 25 lbs. taken on the Hel-Cat, now sailing from her new port in Groton, Conn.

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TIDE TABLES

ON →	SANDY HOOK		NEW LONDON		WILLETS POINT		BRIDGE- PORT	
DAY	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
THURSDAY	10:36	10:46	—	12:04	1:16	1:49	1:30	2:06
FRIDAY	11:31	11:40	12:14	12:59	2:06	2:40	2:20	2:55
SATURDAY	—	12:25	1:09	1:55	2:56	3:33	3:12	3:48
SUNDAY	12:35	1:21	2:08	2:53	3:52	4:31	4:07	4:42
MONDAY	1:33	2:19	3:10	3:53	4:55	5:37	5:06	5:42
TUESDAY	2:32	3:17	4:17	4:55	6:12	6:55	6:09	6:41
WEDNESDAY	3:34	4:20	5:24	5:53	7:38	8:09	7:13	7:40
THURSDAY	4:40	5:17	6:27	6:50	8:52	9:12	8:15	8:38

SANDY HOOK

SHINNECOCK INLET	-0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	-0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Harts Cove	+1 30
Potunck Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	-0 38
Inlet & Dem. Pt.	-0 38
Coast Guard Sta.	-0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	-0 19
Loop Pkwy. Bridge	+0 25
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	-0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	-0 00
Beach Ch. (Bridge)	+0 38
JFK Airport	+0 26
STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
MANASQUAN	-0 12

WILLETS POINT

Little Neck Bay	-0 10
Execution Light	-0 06
Manhasset Bay	-0 01
Hempstead Harbor	-0 11
City Island	-0 03
Rye Beach	-0 28

NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+0 27
Connecticut River	+1 10
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land	-0 14
Fort Pond Bay	-0 29
Montauk Inlet	-0 25
Montauk Point	-1 13

BRIDGEPORT

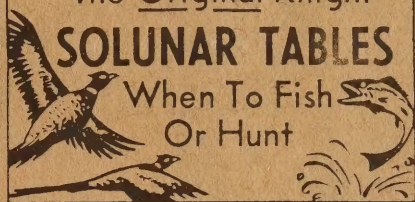
Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	-0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	-0 08
Herod Point	-0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 19
Horton Point	-0 20
Truman Beach	-0 42

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and/or minutes as indicated from that area station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet -0 50" is listed under "on Sandy Hook". -0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

The Original Knight

SOLUNAR TABLES

When To Fish
Or Hunt



The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good territory, hunting good cover during these times if you wish to find the best sport that each has to offer. The tables are not a guarantee that you will catch fish or see game during the period, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour and a half or two hours thereafter, and are in black face type. The minor periods are somewhat shorter in duration.

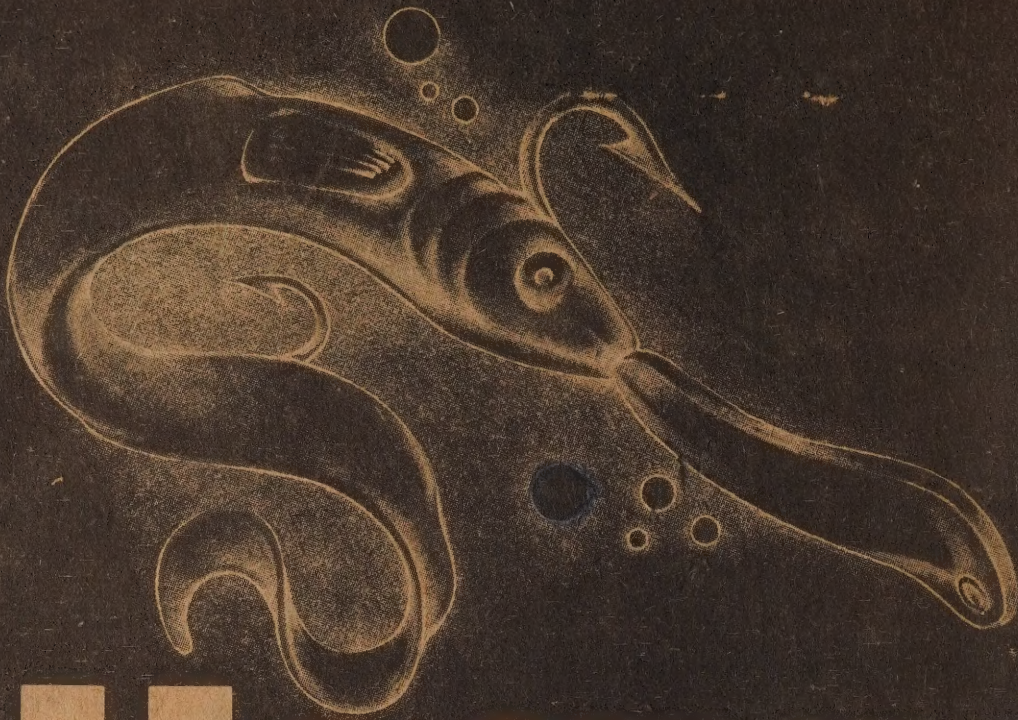
	A.M.		P.M.	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
6/12	7:30	1:50	8:00	2:10
6/13	8:30	2:45	8:55	3:15
6/14	9:30	3:45	9:55	4:10
6/15	10:25	4:40	10:50	5:10
6/16	11:20	5:35	11:45	6:00
6/17	—	6:25	12:15	6:50
6/18	12:35	7:10	1:05	7:35
6/19	1:20	8:00	1:50	8:25

PHASES OF THE MOON

6-9	6-16	6-23	6-1
NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.

SUNRISE/SUNSET

6-6	5:32	8:25
6-12	5:30	8:29
6-18	5:30	8:31
6-24	5:31	8:32



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